



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716
WWW.PSTA.NET 727.540.1800 FAX 727.540.1913

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES – MARCH 29, 2017**

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors met in regular session in the Board Room at PSTA Headquarters at 9:00 AM on this date with the following members present:

Darden Rice, Chairperson
Janet Long, Vice-Chairperson
Doug Bevis
Dave Eggers
Samantha Fenger
Pat Gerard
Patricia Johnson
Bill Jonson
Charlie Justice
Brian Scott
Joshua Shulman
John Tornga
Lisa Wheeler-Bowman

Absent:

Joe Barkley, Secretary/Treasurer

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Rice called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and the Board was led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Walter Slupecki, St. Petersburg resident, spoke about an issue with the upcoming service changes. He is concerned that the possible increase in service on the trolley routes would decrease frequency on Route 4. Mr. Miller stated that there are no plans to reduce service on Route 4.

[Mr. Eggers entered the meeting at 9:07 AM.]

PRESENTATIONS

Demand Response (DART) Service Update – Ross Silver, Mobility Manager, delivered a short presentation on how service has dramatically improved since Care Ride took over the DART contract. He introduced two DART riders, Dave Stanton and Elisabeth Olden, who spoke about their positive experiences with Care Ride and their drivers.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) – Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Committee Chair, provided an update from the March 21st TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas – Mr. Jonson reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meeting that took place on March 8th.

Forward Pinellas' Local Coordinating Board (LCB) – The LCB did not meet since the last Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda, which included the approval of the February 22, 2017 Board meeting minutes and the committee appointments.

ACTION ITEMS

Audit Presentation and Acceptance – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, introduced Sue Pagan, Engagement Director with CliftonLarsonAllen, PSTA's independent audit firm. Ms. Pagan delivered a presentation on the FY 2016 audit. She noted that the Independent Auditors' report on internal controls and the single audit report reported

no material weaknesses. She also reported that there were two uncorrected misstatements; however, the auditors do not consider them material weaknesses, and have since been fixed.

Mr. Jonson reported that the Finance Committee spent considerable time reviewing the report, but did not vote on this item due to a lack of quorum. Mr. Jonson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eggers to approve the FY 2016 audit report. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Clearwater Beach Transit Center Interlocal Agreement – Heather Sobush, Planning Manager, gave a presentation on the transit center in Clearwater. Ms. Sobush described the transit center, stating that it will be designed for three buses or trolleys with a shade canopy and pedestrian access to a parking lot. She said construction could begin in the summer with completion by spring break 2018. The estimated project cost is \$500,000 and the City of Clearwater will contribute up to \$250,000.

In response to Chairperson Rice's call for public comment, John Estok, Safety Harbor resident, said he likes the idea but is against the location. He does not believe this is a convenient location and suggested an alternate site on Gulfview Boulevard.

Mr. Jonson said that since there was no quorum at the Finance Committee meeting, no vote was taken. However, he said the Committee members spoke in favor of this project. Mr. Jonson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long to approve an Interlocal Agreement and an Easement Agreement with the City of Clearwater to share the cost of construction of a new transit center on Clearwater Beach. Mr. Bevis inquired about the safety of the crosswalks by the Hooters Restaurant and Walgreens, and Mr. Jonson responded that the City has had discussions about that area. There were no further public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

CEO Evaluation – Chairperson Rice explained the items included in the packet. She said that nine of the 12 evaluators reported an increase in scores over last year. The Personnel Committee voted to recommend a 5% increase because of Mr. Miller's accomplishments in 2016 and his significant improved performance over the year. It was mentioned that Mr. Miller has not received an increase in two years. The proposed 5% adjustment maintains the CEO's compensation in a competitive range compared to peer transportation agencies. The Board was provided with salary information for other transit CEO's in Florida and nationwide.

Ms. Long provided information on her experiences serving on PSTA's Board, indicating that she is impressed with the CEO's leadership and improvement over the years.

Mr. Jonson pointed out two categories that improved from last year – communication and governance/leadership. Mr. Bevis said he voted no at the Personnel Committee meeting because he wanted more information on previous increases and a comparison of salaries with other transit CEO's. Ms. Johnson said she is proud to work with Mr. Miller and mentioned the legislative trips and all the communication between the two.

Mr. Eggers suggested separating the evaluation and the compensation for next year's evaluation. Mr. Scott said he is in favor of the increase and suggested in the future, use the tabulation score as the percent for the increase, i.e., 3.91%. Mr. Scott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation for a 5% increase for Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller commented on the Board's feedback and said he is thankful for a positive review. He indicated that staff has done a fantastic job, which contributed to this evaluation, adding that he is proud to be the head of PSTA.

In response to Chairperson Rice's call for public comment, Mr. Stanton stated that he is astounded by Mr. Miller's depth of knowledge and commitment to transit. Motion passed (12:1) with Mr. Eggers dissenting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Update – Ms. Sobush reported that PSTA is on target to submit the Small Starts package for this project to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) by the end of August 2017. She showed detailed maps of the proposed route and station locations. Staff is studying the existing circulator service to determine if any improvements can be made. Ms. Sobush said that Electric buses may be used for this route.

The Board members had questions relating to the bus-only lanes and how many vehicles will be required. Mr. Bevis asked about the new mayor of St. Pete Beach and Mr. Miller replied that he has not spoken with the new mayor, but the hotel owners and the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber believe that the new mayor will be more receptive to this project.

FY2018 Budget Calendar & Key Assumptions – The Key Budget Assumptions document was included in the Board packet. Mr. Miller reviewed the budget calendar saying that the first draft of the budget would come to the Board in June. He stated that the final draft budget will be presented in August, with Public Hearings and final

adoption in September. He also briefly reviewed the revenue assumptions for the coming fiscal year.

Vision/Mission Statements – Mr. Miller said the Executive Committee met earlier in the month to discuss revisions to the Vision and Mission statements. The statements were also discussed at the January 13th Board work session. The Vision and Mission statements will be sent to the Board members for their comments and reviewed by the Executive Committee and presented at the next Board meeting.

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Performance/Updates – The report was supplied in the Board packet. Mr. Miller reported that there was a decline in ridership in February. He also spoke about the Ridership by Route Trend report.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

The Board was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects. Mr. Miller said after the April meeting, there will be a PSTA 101 session which would include introducing key staff to Board members, a mini tour of the facility, a discussion about Legislation in Tallahassee regarding regional transportation, and bus technology. He also gave a brief update on recent Jolley Trolley services and the Cross Bay Ferry from Tampa.

Mr. Miller said Mr. Barkley joined him on a trip to Washington D.C. two weeks ago, and on April 3rd, he and Commissioners Gerard and Long will go to Washington for another Legislative visit.

He indicated that Charlie Crist was at PSTA on Monday to receive a tour of the facility.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Bevis thanked PSTA for their help this weekend with the annual Oldsmar Days & Nights event.

Mr. Jonson said on behalf of the City of Clearwater and the business community, he would like to thank the Board and PSTA for the free trolley service to the beach.

Ms. Long reported that there will be a collaborative lab on May 12th for discussion about the collaboration of the area's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's).

Ms. Johnson reiterated that a majority of Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) eligible people do not know that they qualify for the TD program.

Mr. Tornga questioned the opportunities for staff to speak with Senators Brandes or Latvala regarding transportation and PSTA's needs. Mr. Miller responded that the Legislators receive the Agency's top priorities every year.

Chairperson Rice announced that this was a terrific meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Rice adjourned the meeting at 10:58 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for April 26th at 9:00 AM.

Chairperson