



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JUNE 20, 2017

Committee Chair Gloria Lepik-Corrigan called the June 20, 2017 TRAC meeting to order at 4:01 PM. Members present: Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, John Estok, C. David Schneider, Dave Kovar, Kimberly Rankine, Teresa Dunphy, Portia Smith, Elisabeth Olden, Richard McDaniel, Mark O'Hara, Louis Romero and Kevin Lai. Members absent: Alexandra Mesa, Tanya Pistillo, Dave Stanton, and Erika Chambers. Also present was: Brad Miller, CEO; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION

Trish Rodriguez, Clearwater Ferry, gave a brief overview of the Clearwater Ferry Pilot Service to Dunedin. It will run on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and cost \$8 one way. If successful, it could become permanent. The Committee had questions about passes and dock location, which were answered.

CHAIR REPORT

Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan gave a brief report of May's PSTA Board meeting, which included action items on the FY2018 Program of Projects (POP), the Vision/Mission Statements, a Small Bus Purchase and the Federal Sandbox Grant contracts. Mr. Miller also mentioned that PSTA had a successful Town Hall Meeting at Grand Central Station on Friday, June 9th. Mr. Miller, Public Engagement, and Scheduling staff took questions from riders and asked interested riders to fill out surveys.

New TRAC Members – Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan introduced two new members of TRAC: Louis Romero representing Alternate North County, and Kevin Lai, Alternate Student.

ACTION ITEMS

Nominate TRAC Vice Chair - With the resignation of Carson Zimmer in late May, Committee member Ms. Olsen nominated Mr. O'Hara for Vice Chair. Ballots were given out to all voting members. The voting members voted nine to one to elect Mr. O'Hara. Mr. McDaniel abstained. There were no public comments. Mr. O'Hara accepted the nomination and was named Vice Chair.

May 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Olsen made a motion, seconded by Mr. McDaniel, to approve the May 16th minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Amendment to TRAC By-Laws – Following Forward Pinellas's approval of a permanent TRAC representative on their Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), the TRAC By-Laws were amended to include language pertaining to the term, purpose and responsibility of the TRAC member appointed to the Forward Pinellas CAC. Mr. McDaniel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dunphy, to approve the amendment to the By-Laws. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

TRAC Appointment to Forward Pinellas CAC – Mr. Kovar attended a recent Forward Pinellas meeting and expressed interest in serving on the CAC. Mr. McDaniel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dunphy, to appoint Mr. Kovar to CAC. There were no public comments. Motion passes unanimously.

Lease Agreement with St. Petersburg Police Department - Theo Bakomihalis, PSTA Safety, Security and Training Supervisor, presented a proposed lease agreement between PSTA and the St. Petersburg Police Department to operate a Police Resource Center (PRC) at Grand Central Station. Mr. Bakomihalis explained that the St. Petersburg Police Department identified a need for increased police presence at the bus terminal. There is no cost involved in leasing the space and the objective is to reduce the amount of calls for service to and near the terminal. The Committee had a few questions relating to any increase in costs to PSTA as a result of the PRC. After hearing that there is no cost involved, Ms. Olsen made a motion, seconded by Mr. O'Hara, to recommend approval of the lease agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Safety Initiative Letter – Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan presented the TRAC safety initiative letter that was compiled at the TRAC Workshop on June 13th. There were a few edits suggested by Ms. Olden and others to add additional danger zones in South County and downtown St. Petersburg. It was also suggested to send the directory of danger zones to the Complete Streets program administrators. Mr. O'Hara made a

motion, seconded by Ms. Dunphy, to allow Committee Chair Lepik-Corrigan to revise the letter as discussed and present it to the PSTA Board on June 28th. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

FY 2018 Draft Budget – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of the first draft of the FY2018 budget that will be presented to the Board of Directors on June 28th. The Committee was very encouraged to see how the draft budget complies with PSTA’s Mission and implements key strategies found in the new Performance Metrics Scorecard being implemented in 2018.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. McDaniel and Mr. O’Hara raised the issue of the Council of Neighborhood Association’s (CONA) next meeting which will discuss their objection to advertising on bus shelters. Mr. McDaniel plans to attend and defend the need for bus shelters and the necessity for PSTA to rely on the advertising revenue. Mr. Romero asked what the number one reason is why ridership is down. Mr. Miller said ridership is down nationwide, and most studies show it is because gas prices are low and the economy is improving.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM. The next TRAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18th at 4:00 PM.