



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716  
[WWW.PSTA.NET](http://WWW.PSTA.NET) 727.540.1800 FAX 727.540.1913

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES JULY 26, 2017**

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Chairperson Darden Rice called the July 26, 2017 Board meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Members present: Darden Rice, Chairperson; Janet Long, Vice-Chairperson; Joseph Barkley, Secretary/Treasurer; Richard Bennett, Doug Bevis, Dave Eggers, Samantha Fenger, Pat Gerard, Patricia Johnson, Bill Jonson, Brian Scott, Josh Shulman, John Tornga, Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Members absent: Charlie Justice. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vivian Peters, Largo resident, spoke about Mr. Miller's usage of the PSTA buses and encouraged all Board members to ride the bus more often.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Federal Legislative Update – Harry Glenn and Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc Associates, presented a Federal Legislative update. Mr. Glenn reported that it was a busy six months in Washington, D.C. relating to transportation issues. He outlined the various Washington visits and meetings by staff and Board members and noted that PSTA has been recognized for its innovative programs recently implemented. Mr. Palmer spoke about FY 2018 funding as well as the budget process for both the House and Senate. He explained that the House approved fully funding the Small Starts program, but not the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grants.

Mr. Glenn spoke about PSTA's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project and stated that support for the project will be needed from federal, state, and local leaders. He also mentioned the Low No grant, adding that PSTA's application was submitted on June 23rd. He noted that strong letters of support have been written by Senators Nelson and Rubio, as well as Congressmen Crist and Bilirakis. Award decisions will be made this September. Mr. Palmer provided a brief update on the President's infrastructure initiative and expressed his belief that there is a lot of uncertainty about this program.

Ms. Johnson asked about Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) funding and expressed the importance that these people are provided transportation. Mr. Palmer pointed out that government is in favor of eliminating the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), allowing each state to handle transportation funding at the local level. Mr. Barkley said the Florida League of Cities can identify agencies that the Authority should be in contact with to discuss transportation. Mr. Miller indicated that the Legislative Committee creates PSTA's Legislative priorities and receives regular updates from Mr. Glenn and Mr. Palmer.

Breathe Easy Program – James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, introduced Sunny Davis and Susan Jenkins with the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County. Mr. Bradford outlined PSTA's Breathe Easy program and Ms. Davis and Ms. Jenkins provided a brief presentation of their tobacco free initiative. There was discussion about cigarette butts and signage at bus stops.

**[Mr. Eggers left the meeting at 9:43 AM and did not return.]**

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) Update – Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Committee Chair, provided an update from the July 18th TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas – Mr. Jonson reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meeting that took place on July 12th.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Long made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda which included the approval of the June 28, 2017 Board meeting minutes, the bus shelter contracts, and the Giro HASTUS contract.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Employee Benefits – Ms. Leous outlined the employee health benefits, noting that health costs have increased significantly. She reported that PSTA's average cost of claims per employee has risen over 90% in the last two years, and renewal projections were estimated to increase by over 40%. Ms. Leous indicated that staff requested The Gehring Group, the Agency's insurance broker, to initiate an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) to solicit competitive quotes and multiple different options to lower the cost. She

said that three carriers responded: Cigna, UnitedHealthCare, and Florida Blue. Staff is recommending awarding the contract for health/dental to Cigna, which was the lowest cost provider. Ms. Leous explained the three options that employees can choose, including an option that will be a zero cost for employee-only coverage. She also discussed other options such as voluntary gap coverage and a Health Savings Account (HSA), along with continuing PSTA's wellness initiatives and education.

Mr. Shulman had questions about PSTA's current Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and the costs and Ms. Leous responded. He suggested that a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) might be a better option. Mr. Shulman also said that he would like to discuss health care sooner next year. Mr. Scott commented that he would like to receive updates on the health care issue, especially what plan employees are choosing. Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long, to approve a contract with Cigna for medical, prescription, and dental insurance; renewal of vision coverage through Advantica; and approve optional life insurance through Minnesota Life. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

FY 2018 Millage Rate – Ms. Leous gave a brief outline of the Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice requirements and said staff is recommending approval to set the millage rate to 0.7500, which is the same as it is currently. She said this rate will bring in \$3.3 million to assist with the FY 2018 budget. Mr. Barkley stated his belief that it is very important to maintain the current rate because of the possibility of losing money due to the homestead exemption change. Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler-Bowman, to approve the proposed millage rate of 0.7500 to be transmitted to the Property Appraiser. There were no public comments. Motion passed (12:1) with Mr. Scott dissenting.

PSTA Scorecard – Mr. Miller talked about the organizational scorecard as well as the process for the CEO and staff evaluations. He explained that this scorecard is tied into PSTA's Vision and Mission statements and the Path Forward plan. Mr. Miller indicated that the approval of the evaluation process will take place in September. He said the data will start to be collected on October 1, 2017. He noted that the action today is to approve the five key strategies on the organizational scorecard. Mr. Scott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long, to approve the Performance Counts five key strategies. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Appointment to Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) – Mr. Miller said that the Legislative Committee is recommending approval to appoint Ms. Long to the re-vamped TBARTA Board. After a lengthy discussion about whether to have PSTA's Chairperson sit on TBARTA's Board or appoint another Board member, as well

as the timing of the appointment, Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shulman, to nominate Chairperson Rice. After further discussion about the term and the merits of possibly having two Board members sit on the TBARTA Board, Ms. Gerard and Mr. Shulman withdrew their nomination. Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Scott to approve Ms. Long as PSTA's representative on the TBARTA Board. There were no public comments. Motion passed (11:2) with Ms. Johnson and Mr. Shulman dissenting.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Transit Development Plan (TDP) Progress Report – Jacob Labutka, Transit Planner, gave an update on PSTA's accomplishments and additional priority projects for the ten-year TDP. He indicated that the TDP and the list of priority projects are required by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to be eligible to receive funding. Mr. Labutka stated that a major update is required every five years and an annual update/progress report is required for all other years. Ms. Long mentioned Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority's (HART) autonomous vehicle program and suggested that PSTA find a pilot project and quickly move ahead with autonomous vehicles.

### **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Performance/Updates – The information was included in the packet. Mr. Miller noted that half of the 6% drop in ridership was due to nine fewer school days in June.

PSTA Contracts – Mr. Miller indicated that this is the quarterly contract report, which is included in the packet.

### **FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**

The Board was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects.

**[Ms. Long left the meeting at 11:00 AM and did not return.]**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Miller mentioned a trial program with the Tradewinds Hotel that allows its guests and employees to ride the trolley for free. He said the trial started on July 10th and is very successful with the employees. He indicated that after the trial period, this could possibly turn into a Corporate Pass (CPASS) program.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Jonson commented on his trip to Dublin and his experiences with double decker buses and light rail.

Mr. Scott indicated that he received an email from a rider with a picture showing a PSTA bus desperately in need of cleaning. He asked if the Agency has a cleaning contract and Mr. Miller replied yes. Staff will look into this issue.

Chairperson Rice thanked everyone for the discussion and consideration of her to be PSTA's representative on the TBARTA Board, and said she knows that Ms. Long will do a fantastic job.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Rice adjourned the meeting at 11:09 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for August 23rd at 9:00 AM.

Immediately following the Board meeting, there was a Breathe Easy ribbon cutting event at PSTA's layby. Chairperson Rice, Mr. Bevis, Mr. Barkley, Mr. Jonson, Ms. Fenger, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Scott, and Mr. Tornga attended. The ceremony lasted approximately 20 minutes.

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Chairperson