



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 25, 2017

Chairperson Darden Rice called the October 25, 2017 Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Members present: Darden Rice, Chairperson; Janet Long, Vice-Chairperson; Joseph Barkley, Secretary/Treasurer; David Banther, Richard Bennett, Dave Eggers, Samantha Fenger, Pat Gerard, Bill Jonson, Charlie Justice, Brian Scott, Josh Shulman, John Tornga, and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Members absent: Patricia Johnson. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deborah Lekenta, Neighborly Care Network, commended staff for their support during Hurricane Irma.

Chari Mercier, St. Petersburg resident, talked about bus stop signs needing to be larger, wider, and brighter so they are more visible to Bus Operators. She also talked about more frequency and later hours on Route 75. Ms. Mercier suggested that schedulers ride Route 79 from 2:00 - 7:00 PM Monday through Friday to get a better understanding of the time stops and why that route runs 10 – 40 minutes late from Clearwater to St. Petersburg.

PRESENTATION

Leadership PSTA – Trish Collins, Staffing & Development Manager, provided a brief presentation on Leadership PSTA and introduced the very first graduating class members. She also introduced and welcomed next year's Leadership PSTA participants.

RECOGNITION

Incoming Board Member – Chairperson Rice introduced new Board member, Tarpon Spring's Vice-Mayor David Banther, who will be serving a term from October 1, 2017 to September 31, 2020. Everyone welcomed Mr. Banther to the Board.

Reappointment to PSTA Board – Chairperson Rice indicated that three Board members have been reappointed for another term on the Board – Pinellas County Commissioner Mr. Eggers; Beaches representative from North Redington Beach, Mr. Bennett; and Secretary/Treasurer representing the Inland Cities, from Belleair Bluffs, Mr. Barkley.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) Update – Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Committee Chair, provided an update from the October 17th TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas – Mr. Jonson reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meeting that took place on October 11th. He invited Mr. Shulman to speak about the School Transportation Safety Committee. Mr. Miller mentioned that there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Finance Park in Largo, which is a real-life educational program for 8th graders that PSTA is participating in.

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) Update – Ms. Long said that the TBARTA Board met for the second time on September 22nd and provided some highlights.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Long made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda which included the approval of the September 6, 2017 and September 20, 2017 Public Hearing minutes, the September 27, 2017 Board meeting minutes, the 2018 meeting schedule, and the Forward Pinellas funding agreement.

ACTION ITEMS

PSTA Performance Evaluation System – Mr. Miller gave a brief update on the evaluation process which supports the recently approved organizational scorecard. He said the action today is to approve a new performance evaluation system for the PSTA CEO, as well as all non-bargaining unit employees where at least half of the annual overall evaluation shall be based on quantitative measures related to the performance scorecard. Ms. Long commended staff for their hard work; Chairperson Rice concurred. Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jonson, to approve the new performance evaluation system. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

FY 18 & FY 19 Replacement Bus Purchase – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview on the bus purchase. Mr. Barkley, Finance Committee Chair, reported that the Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of placing a single order for buses for both FY 2018 and FY 2019 in order to lock in prices and save money. With that, he made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jonson, to place the FY 2018 and FY 2019 order. Mr. Scott commented that he voted for the two-year agreement, but does not support the continued purchase of hybrid buses. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard, to approve the purchase of 18 Gillig hybrid electric buses at a cost not to exceed \$13,320,000. Mr. Jonson had a question about one of the charts included in the packet and Henry Lukasik, Director of Maintenance, responded. The Board members also asked questions relating to fuel costs, emissions, electric buses, and the social, environmental, and fiscal aspects of this decision. Mr. Miller and Ms. Leous responded to their questions. There were no public comments. The motion passed (10:4) with Mr. Eggers, Mr. Jonson, Ms. Long, and Mr. Scott dissenting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2018 Service Adjustment Process – Mr. Miller talked about ridership trends and marketing efforts to increase ridership. He indicated that the small improvements that began in February are showing growth. Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, provided information about the process for implementing service improvements, which included an outline on new, innovative solutions such as Direct Connect. She spoke about Route 444 and the declining ridership it is experiencing. She noted that the annual operating cost for Route 444 is \$157,820, which is \$53.85 cost per ride. She spoke about alternatives for the few riders that currently use the Route 444. Ms. Borchers also talked about the changes to Route 58, as well as a service redesign work plan to review and analyze the remaining routes. There were a few comments about Route 444 and why it has not been eliminated. It was pointed out that in the past, there were no other alternatives for those riders. Ms. Borchers reiterated that with PSTA's new innovative programs, customers will have other ways to get to work and back home if this route is eliminated.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Performance/Updates – The information was included in the packet.

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

TD Late Shift Update – Mr. Miller spoke briefly about the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Late Shift program and its progress during the past year. He said staff will continue applying for funds to continue this successful program. He showed an Innovation and Creativity Award for the TD Late Shift program that PSTA received from the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA). He also, spoke briefly about some other awards PSTA received from FPTA.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

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

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Jonson commented that this was a great meeting and welcomed Mr. Banther to the Board. He suggested that PSTA produce a business case for premium transit and talk about it around the region. He mentioned an overpass on U.S. 19 and Harn Boulevard that was overlooked by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). He said that the overpass will be constructed, but not right away.

Mr. Scott said thank you to Ms. Leous, Mr. Lukasik, and staff for all the time and effort on the bus replacement presentation. He commented on bus costs and the number of PSTA employees. It is his belief that the Authority is potentially overstaffed and should consider contracting services out, a hiring freeze, and every department head should be challenged with cutting 25% in personnel expenses.

Mr. Eggers spoke about the successful half-price monthly pass sale in June and the success of the routes where weekend frequency was improved in February.

Ms. Long suggested taking Mr. Scott's comments to the Finance Committee to discuss further.

Mr. Justice agreed that it should be looked at further.

Chairperson Rice also agreed, adding that Mr. Scott did bring up some interesting facts and either the Finance Committee or the Executive Committee should explore further. She again welcomed Mr. Banther and congratulated the graduates of Leadership PSTA and the incoming class. She also congratulated Mr. Miller and the Authority for the awards won.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Rice adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for December 6th at 9:00 AM.

Chairperson