



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 25, 2018

Chairperson Janet Long called the April 25, 2018 Board meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Chairperson; Joe Barkley, Vice-Chairperson; Pat Gerard, Secretary/Treasurer; Richard Bennett, Doreen Caudell, Dave Eggers, Patricia Johnson, Darden Rice, Brian Scott, Josh Shulman, John Tornga, and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Members absent: David Banther, Samantha Fenger, and Charlie Justice. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Ebelke, Clearwater resident, indicated that he has been a rider on the 300X for ten years. He stated his concerns about the 300X making a stop at the Tampa International Airport (TIA). He believes this would add 30-45 minutes to the commute. Mr. Ebelke suggested waiting until PSTA can afford to have a dedicated route to the airport. Mr. Miller addressed his comments.

Tony Love, CEO of St. Petersburg Housing Authority, mentioned an easement agreement related to installing a shelter at his location. He also spoke of the Route 444 elimination and surveys that he conducted. He stated his concerns about the half-mile walk that his clients have to navigate from the Route 74. Mr. Miller and Board members responded to his concerns.

Michelle Ligon, St. Petersburg resident, also voiced her concerns about the elimination of Route 444 to the St. Petersburg Housing Authority and asked for collaboration in finding a solution.

[Ms. Caudell entered the meeting at 9:33 AM.]

Sharon Calvert, Tierra Verde resident, spoke about the proposed alignment of the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and PSTA's application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Grace Thompson, St. Petersburg resident, talked about homelessness, as well as her hardship to get to work and back when the buses do not run early enough in the morning nor late enough at night.

Chairperson Long welcomed new Board member Doreen Caudell to the meeting. Ms. Caudell is replacing Bill Jonson as Clearwater's appointee. Her term will end on September 30, 2018.

PRESENTATION

Legislative Session Recap – Natalie King, RSA Consulting, provided highlights of the State Legislative session and Harry Glenn and Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc, provided information on the Federal Legislation. Ms. King outlined PSTA's 2018 priorities and how they fared in the Legislative session. Mr. Glenn talked about the trips to Washington D.C. and Mr. Palmer spoke about final fiscal year 2018 funding. They also provided an update on the Central Avenue BRT project and the Lo-No Emission funding. Questions were raised about grant money and Tourist Development Council (TDC) funding. Ms. King said she will forward specific information on the TDC funding to the Board members.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Recognize Retiring Employee, Joe Yacone – Jeff Thompson, Director of Transportation, recognized Mr. Yacone for his 33 years of service to the Authority.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

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

Forward Pinellas – Chairperson Long reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meeting that took place on April 11th.

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) Update – Chairperson Long reported on the March 23rd meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tornga, to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Zimmet read Resolution #18-03 by title. The Board unanimously approved the

Consent Agenda which included the approval of the March 21, 2018 Board meeting minutes, the wheelchair ramp replacement contract, the Risk Information Management System contract, as well as the Resolution for the Mobility Enhancement Grant.

ACTION ITEMS

Electric Bus Purchase – Henry Lukasik, Director of Maintenance, provided an update on the status of the two electric buses on order. He said in June 2017, PSTA applied for a grant under the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Low or No Emission Program and was successful in being awarded \$1,000,000. In addition, PSTA will contribute \$1,000,000 from the Capital budget. Mr. Lukasik also mentioned a trip to BYD to inspect the electric buses currently in production and explained the timeline to deployment in October. He indicated that staff is asking for approval of a contract with BYD Motors, Inc. for the purchase of two 35', all electric/zero emission, low floor buses and two depot chargers. The Board had questions regarding the annual bus purchases and the route where these would be used. After Mr. Lukasik and Mr. Miller addressed their questions, Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rice, to approve the contract with BYD Motors, Inc. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

[Ms. Gerard left the meeting at 10:27 AM and did not return.]

Benchmarking Update – Mr. Miller gave a presentation on the American Bus Benchmarking Group's (ABBG) data analysis and reviewed PSTA's results from 2016.

[Ms. Caudell left the meeting at 10:34 AM and did not return.]

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Performance Updates – The information was included in the packet.

PSTA Contracts – The report was included in the packet.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

The Board was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects. Mr. Miller congratulated the Finance Department for once again receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). He also mentioned major

upcoming events including the International Bus Roadeo and American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Bus and Paratransit Conference beginning May 6th. He invited the Board members to the kick-off event on May 7th. Mr. Miller also mentioned that there will be a BAE Systems prototype bus at PSTA on May 2nd.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Eggers suggested adding a history of ridership on the performance updates as well as a historic trend on ridership from the Benchmarking group. Mr. Barkley encouraged Mr. Glenn and Mr. Palmer to inform Congress about PSTA's innovative initiatives, especially possibly using the buses in emergencies for generators. Ms. Johnson pointed out that PSTA is the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) champions in Florida. Mr. Scott talked about the 300X issues and concerns from riders about adding the TIA stop.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Tornga spoke about ridership and the Benchmarking data.

Ms. Johnson would like to see what affects our ridership, such as gas prices going up.

Ms. Rice congratulated Mr. Yacone on his retirement. She said the Legislative update was very exciting.

Mr. Barkley congratulated the Finance Department on the award for the CAFR.

Mr. Shulman congratulated the Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) on the creation of the Gold Star Transit Award.

Mr. Bennett spoke about the Route 444 and a shelter at the St. Petersburg Housing Authority.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Long adjourned the meeting at 11:57 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd at 9:00 AM.

Chairperson