



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 29, 2019

Chairperson Janet Long called the May 29, 2019 Board meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Chairperson; Joe Barkley, Vice-Chairperson; Pat Gerard, Secretary/Treasurer; Dave Allbritton, Richard Bennett, Vince Cocks, Gina Driscoll, Dave Eggers, Heather Gracy, Patricia Johnson, Charlie Justice, Darden Rice, Dan Saracki, and Josh Shulman. Member absent: Samantha Fenger. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Flag Ceremony for Cadet Alvin R. Burns, III – Al Burns, Director of Procurement, showed a video of when his son, Alvin R. Burns, III, was accepted into West Point Academy four years ago. His son recently graduated and Representative Chris Latvala presented Mr. Burns with an American flag that was flown over the Florida Capital in Tallahassee.

PRESENTATION

Operator Safety Initiative – Chairperson Long spoke on the tragic event involving the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) bus operator. Mr. Miller stated that staff has been talking with the media and employees in the days following the incident. He introduced James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, who welcomed Union Representatives and bus operators from the Tampa Bay area and outlined the employee safety measures that PSTA has implemented over the years. Service Employees International Union (SEIU) representatives commented on the issue.

Edward Dwyer, retired PSTA Bus Operator, spoke on the memorial service for the HART driver, as well as shields on the buses. Danny Dinicolantonio, former bus operator, talked about his tenure at PSTA and provided safety and driver escape suggestions to the Board. Karen O'Hara, PSTA driver, mentioned an incident that occurred during her shift. Carl Heissenbittel, Clearwater resident, spoke about safety on buses as well as passenger safety. Harry Sherouse, Pinellas Park resident, talked about the changes to bus routes and provided some suggestions for modifications to other routes.

Mr. Justice questioned the timeline for deciding on the safety partitions. Chairperson Long replied that this will be brought to the Committee level before the full Board. Mr. Miller said that there will be a discussion on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) later in the meeting and that staff will be deciding what type of barrier to purchase. Ms. Rice would like the Legislative Committee to discuss the bill "H.R. 1139 - Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act," and suggested the Board write a letter of support for the bill. Chairperson Long suggested an emergency Finance Committee meeting to discuss the partitions. Ms. Gerard concurred with the urgency of the matter and also asked about the timeframe and cost to install the safety barriers. Mr. Miller replied at it would be about \$1 million. He added that staff sent a letter to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for funding and was denied. Mr. Eggers agreed with expediting the process and mentioned that purchasing less expensive buses would produce the savings to pay for the barriers. Ms. Johnson talked about her daughter's experience as a police officer and believes something should be done immediately to protect the drivers. Mr. Allbritton thanked the speakers and would also like to expedite this matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no additional public comments.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

TRAC Update – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, provided an update from the May 14th TRAC meeting. She informed the Board that Mark O'Hara has resigned as TRAC's Committee Chair due to his job obligations.

Forward Pinellas Local Coordinating Board (LCB) – Ms. Johnson said that the Forward Pinellas LCB met on May 21st and provided some highlights.

Forward Pinellas Update – Mr. Eggers reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meeting that took place on May 8th.

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) Update – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, provided a financial report from the May 17th Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard, to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Zimmet read Resolutions 19-01, 19-02, and 19-03 by title. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda which included the approval of the April 24, 2019 Board

meeting minutes, the Committee appointments, the Uber Mobility contracts, State and Federal grant approvals, and the General Training contract.

INFORMATION ITEMS

State Legislative Update – Ron Pierce, RSA Consulting, provided a summary of the State Legislative session. There were a few comments and questions about Demand Response (DART), Uber, and Lyft transportation for non-emergency Medicaid trips. Chairperson Long provided additional information about H.R. 1139, The Transit Worker and Pedestrian Act.

Capital Plan and Reserves – Ms. Leous provided a presentation on PSTA's capital needs and reserve use. She indicated that the Authority is one of the most cost-effective transit agencies in the country and also one of the lowest funded. Ms. Leous reported on the capital needs versus funds over the next five years. She said by the end of FY 2021, there will be less than \$1 million in available reserves for capital and operating costs. She also reviewed what is currently being funded and what capital is not being funded. Ms. Leous noted that within five years, an estimated \$18 million of local funding is needed with a total need of up to \$26 million over ten years to maintain a state of good repair.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Performance Updates – The information was included in the packet. Mr. Miller mentioned the April trip to Tallahassee with Board members. He noted that ridership was up in April due to spring break. Mr. Miller also spoke about St. Pete Beach Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) meetings. He said that on June 11th, PSTA will give a 15-minute BRT presentation to the St. Pete Beach City Commission. He announced that PSTA's Maintenance team won first place in the National Bus Roadeo. Mr. Miller also mentioned that the Agency received a \$100,000 federal grant for Veteran's services and was invited to participate in an autonomous vehicle consortium. He invited Board members to participate in the annual St. Pete Pride parade on June 22nd.

Chairperson Long spoke about the two St. Pete Beach City Commission meetings she attended and a subsequent meeting with the Mayor of St. Pete Beach. She also spoke about how willing PSTA has been in trying to work with St. Pete Beach and their concerns about the Central Avenue BRT project. Chairperson Long asked each Board member for their thoughts on the subject.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

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

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Long adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for June 26th at 9:00 AM.

Chairperson