



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2019**

Secretary/Treasurer Pat Gerard called the January 23, 2019 Board meeting to order at 9:01 am. Members present: Janet Long, Chairperson; Joe Barkley, Vice-Chairperson; Pat Gerard, Secretary/Treasurer; Dave Allbritton, David Banther, Richard Bennett, Vince Cocks, Gina Driscoll, Dave Eggers, Samantha Fenger, Patricia Johnson, Charlie Justice, Darden Rice, and Josh Shulman. Members absent: Heather Gracy. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Nikki Day, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

Public Comment:

Robert Sandor, PSTA Bus Operator, spoke about the Government shutdown and the transportation needs of the families that are affected. He also mentioned the regional routes going to Hillsborough County and said that PSTA is an affordable option as compared with Uber and other means of transportation.

Carl Heissenbuttel, Clearwater resident, commented that the restroom facilities are not open during bus service hours at the Park Street terminal. He also mentioned the cleanliness of the restrooms and suggested that PSTA hire someone to perform the cleaning and maintenance. In addition, he spoke of safety issues with the buses not pulling close enough to the curbs.

[Secretary/Treasurer Gerard passed the gavel to Chairperson Long who entered the meeting at 9:09 am.]

Awards and Recognition:

Incoming Board Members Gina Driscoll and Heather Gracy – Chairperson Long welcomed two new Board members. Ms. Gracy who is replacing John Tornga as Dunedin's appointee with a term ending September 2019, and Ms. Driscoll who is replacing Lisa Wheeler-Bowman as St. Petersburg's appointee also with a term ending September 2019.

Outgoing Board Member Ms. Wheeler-Bowman – Mr. Miller recognized Ms. Wheeler-Bowman for her two-and-a-half years serving on the Board. He presented her with a plaque and lifetime bus pass.

[Mr. Allbritton entered the meeting at 9:15 am]

Driver of the Year, Tab Ward – Jeff Thompson, Director of Transportation, provided some background information on Mr. Ward’s 29-year career with PSTA and presented him with a plaque.

Committee Updates:

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) Update – Mark O’Hara, Committee Chair, provided an update from the January 15th TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas – Chairperson Long reported on the Joint Funding Workshop on January 18th between Forward Pinellas, Board of County Commissioners (BCC), PSTA and the Mayor’s Council.

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) Update – Chairperson Long said the first Board meeting of the year will be held this Friday, January 25th.

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Eggers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda which included the approval of the December 5, 2018 Board meeting minutes, the supervisor vehicles purchase, the remanufactured parts contract, as well as the claim settlement.

Action Items:

Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition – Sean Sullivan, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC), provided a presentation on the new Resiliency Coalition, which includes 27 local governments. Mr. Sullivan spoke about the Coalition’s purpose, structure and engagement. He said the desired initial work products are: a unified sea level rise projection for the Tampa Bay Region; an analysis of the vulnerability of the Tampa Bay Region to sea level rise, and the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency action plan. Mr. Sullivan also suggested PSTA sign a Letter of Collaboration and participate in the Coalition’s Planning & Advisory Committee and Workgroups. Ms.

Rice thanked Chairperson Long for her leadership on resiliency issues on the TBRPC and spoke about the group's accomplishments. After a few comments from Board members regarding how their cities are dealing with environmental issues, Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley, to approve the Resilience Coalition and sign the letter of collaboration. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

PSTA Innovative Services Contracts Insurance Modifications – Mr. Miller talked about the modifications to the insurance requirement levels for the vendors of PSTA's innovative services: United Taxi, Wheelchair Transport, and Liberty Wheelchair. He indicated that these vendors are used for Direct Connect, the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Late Shift, the Tarpon Springs Healthy Hop, and the Sandbox program. Mr. Miller said that General Counsel reviewed these contracts. Mr. Barkley noted that the Finance Committee did recommend approval, but there were concerns raised about the insurance levels. Questions were raised about cost and claim history and Nick Cambas from United Taxi provided some answers for the Board.

Gary Beavers, St. Petersburg resident, commented that he is a Sandbox program rider and has used the app on his phone for mobility On-Demand for the last six months and stated his opinion that the On-Demand service is very efficient and safe.

Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Clearwater resident, said that she also uses the On-Demand mobility service and believes it is a wonderful service.

Mr. Justice made a motion, seconded by Mr. Banther, to approve revisions to the auto-liability coverage contracts. There were no further public comments. Motion passed (13:1) with Mr. Barkley dissenting.

FY2019 Bus and Paratransit Adjustments – Heather Sobush, Director of Planning, gave a presentation on the Advantage Pinellas plan and the possibility of service cuts. She explained that PSTA's five-year operating budget includes deficits beginning in FY2019. Ms. Sobush noted that the 2018 Community Bus Plan includes recommendations to cut lowest performing routes and move those resources to the highest performing transit corridors. She said given the current budget outlook, the Agency will have to make some of the cuts, but will no longer be able to reallocate those resources to the highest performing routes because the funds will be needed to offset the budget deficit. Mr. Barkley noted that the Planning Committee reviewed this and recommended approval. Questions and comments were raised regarding funding, reserves, bus purchase, paratransit service, service in Safety Harbor, coverage versus core, TD, disabled riders, and quality of life. After discussion, Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded

by Ms. Johnson, to authorize staff to hold public hearings on bus and paratransit cuts, if needed. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

State Road 60/Memorial Interchange Letter of Support – Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, spoke about the daily recurring traffic congestion and bottleneck in the State Road 60/Memorial Interchange. She said despite this situation, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) currently shows no construction funding for the interchange within the next five years. Ms. Borchers said staff is recommending advancement of this project and requests the Board submit a letter of support to FDOT District Seven. Mr. Eggers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard, to send a letter of support for the project. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports and Correspondence:

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

PSTA Contracts – The quarterly contract report was included in the packet.

Future Meeting Subjects:

The Board was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects. Mr. Miller said that there is a Legislative trip to Tallahassee on February 11-12. Board members Johnson and Bennett will be attending. He indicated that the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project is at the 30% design stage and there will be a BRT Open House after the February Board meeting. Mr. Miller said there will be upcoming discussions on the five cities who are not part of PSTA and the CEO Performance Evaluation.

Other Business:

Mr. Banther spoke of free rides for government employees affected by the shutdown.

Mr. Shulman suggested a funding workshop with the School Board to discuss a pilot program for student transportation.

Mr. Cocks said to mention Medicaid transportation in Pinellas County during the Tallahassee trip.

Board Member Comments:

Ms. Rice congratulated the Driver of the Year and welcomed Ms. Driscoll to the Board.

Mr. Justice commented that the Tourist Development Council (TDC) funds have limits on what those dollars can be used for. He added that PSTA has not come forward to the County Commission to request funds.

Mr. Eggers said thank you for the conversation on how to make the community better. He said PSTA needs to look at short-term, mid-term, and long-term solutions.

Mr. Shulman mentioned that March 20th is St. Petersburg day in Tallahassee. He welcomed Ms. Driscoll and extended kudos to Mr. O'Hara for his first presentation to the Board.

Mr. Banther thanked PSTA for the Healthy Hop program in Tarpon Springs, which is a huge success, and encouraged staff to provide free rides for the Federal workers.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chairperson Long adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27th at 9:00 am.

Chairperson