



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 27, 2019**

Chairperson Janet Long called the March 27, 2019 Board meeting to order at 9:03 am. Members present: Janet Long, Chairperson; Joe Barkley, Vice-Chairperson; Pat Gerard, Secretary/Treasurer; Dave Allbritton, Richard Bennett, Vince Cocks, Gina Driscoll, Samantha Fenger, Dave Eggers, Darden Rice, and Josh Shulman. Members absent: David Banther, Heather Gracy, Patricia Johnson, and Charlie Justice. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

Public Comment:

Chase Hollowell, Seminole resident, stated that he has been a rider for 30 years and spoke about the proposed elimination of Route 58. He also mentioned the scheduling of routes and suggested PSTA reach out to the companies on 118th Avenue for their opinion on how this would affect their employees.

[Ms. Rice entered the meeting at 9:08 am.]

Robin Shaw, Seminole resident, spoke about the Route 58 and also suggested that the companies be made aware that this route may be eliminated. She said that she is currently working on trying to save the route by getting signatures in support of the 58 and provided a list of riders who signed a petition. She also mentioned PSTA's free Park and Ride programs.

Presentation:

Whitney Fox, Acting Marketing Director, showed a video of PSTA staff during last week's trip to Washington D.C. She said the purpose of the trip was to thank officials at the state and federal levels for their support and advocate for funding for PSTA's Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

Committee Updates:

TRAC Update – Mark O'Hara, Committee Chair, provided an update from the March 19th TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas Update – Mr. Eggers reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meeting that took place on March 13th.

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Eggers 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 February 27, 2019 Board meeting minutes, the heavy-duty vehicle lifts, the settlement authority, the bulk fluids contract, and the drug/physical testing contract.

Action Items:

FY2018 Audit Report – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, spoke briefly about the audit and introduced Andrew Laflin, Principal with CliftonLarsonAllen, PSTA's independent audit firm who reviewed the FY2018 annual audit results. He indicated that the Authority received an unmodified opinion that states that the financial statements were fairly presented. Mr. Laflin also noted that there were no material weaknesses and three significant deficiencies identified regarding internal control over compliance. He stated that corrective recommendations were made by the auditors, which management agreed and implemented. In addition, Mr. Laflin reviewed the Demand Response (DART) program analysis that was conducted. He also introduced Lance Schmidt, Principal, who will be conducting PSTA's audits in the future.

The Board had questions regarding the number of DART trips, overtime expenses, and Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) verification of eligibility requirements. After Mr. Laflin and staff answered their questions, Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Allbritton, to accept the FY2018 Audit Report. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items:

Mr. Miller briefly talked about his meetings with Whit Blanton, Forward Pinellas Executive Director, and Barry Burton, Pinellas County Administrator, regarding transit funding.

Service Adjustment Public Hearing – Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, spoke on the service adjustments and the public hearings that are scheduled for April 10th and 24th. Questions were asked about how PSTA is informing the public about the hearings, the rationale for these changes, and alternatives for the riders affected.

Transit Funding – Ms. Leous presented information on the financial issues PSTA is facing and different scenarios where money from reserves could be used to offset the budget deficit. The Board had many questions and discussion regarding the use of PSTA's reserves, gas tax revenue, service cuts, the need for finding new funding resources, and the non-member cities. There were many comments from members stating that they do not want to cut or eliminate service.

Reports and Correspondence:

Performance/Updates – The information was included in the packet. Mr. Miller spoke about an upcoming meeting with CareRide regarding the DART program. He noted that PSTA Bus Operator, Nehemia Guerra, won the recent Rodeo for the second year in a row. Mr. Miller indicated that the Central Avenue BRT project received another medium high rating from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). He also noted that Bonnie Epstein, Senior Planner, has been selected for the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Emerging Leaders program and Trish Collins, Director of Human Resources, is a member of the Leadership APTA program.

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. Eggers said he appreciated all the comments today and mentioned the need for ongoing conversations with the residents. He also spoke of the need for continual work on short and long-term plans for transit.

Mr. Allbritton would like to strategize on how PSTA can get more funding and not cut service.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chairperson Long adjourned the meeting at 10:57 am. The next meeting is scheduled for April 24th at 9:00 am.

Chairperson