



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRAC) MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019**

Committee Vice-Chair Olden called the March 19, 2019 TRAC meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Members present: Elisabeth Olden, Sue Keating, Dave Kovar, Tim Parietti, Renee Graham, Debra Bjorkquist, Brian Grant, Chelsea Anderson, Jovantee Blair, Kenneth Durham, Derek Shavor and Teresa Dunphy. Member absent: Camille Soleil, Mark O'Hara and Edwin Klumpp. Also present: PSTA staff members and members of the public.

Public Comment:

Robin Shaw, Seminole resident, gave public comment urging TRAC to keep Route 58 and submitted a petition signed by 161 residents for the PSTA Board of Directors.

Mark Shaw, Seminole resident, also gave public comment to support the riders of Route 58, which they depend on to get to and from work.

Chair Report:

Committee Vice-Chair Olden read the Chair Report from the February 27th Board Meeting which detailed the efforts to secure additional funding to offset the budget shortfall. There was an announcement of the three awards won by the PSTA marketing department at last month's American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Marketing and Communications workshop in New Orleans. Committee Vice-Chair Olden reminded TRAC members to fill out the PSTA survey for the American Bus Benchmarking Group (ABBG) sent to them by Maryanne Sobocinski, TRAC Coordinator.

Forward Pinellas Report:

Mr. Kovar gave an overview of the Forward Pinellas Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, which focused on making our streets and roads safer for pedestrians, transit riders and drivers. He encouraged all TRAC members to attend a future CAC meeting to learn the current plans of the organization, especially their focus on pedestrian and bicycle friendly community development.

Action Items:

February 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Ms. Keating made a motion, seconded by Ms. Graham, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

TRAC Initiatives – Nicole Dufva, Public Engagement Planner, presented an action item to approve two initiatives that TRAC members had previously discussed and supported: 1). continue the TRAC STAR Award, and 2) volunteer as ambassadors at public engagement activities. Ms. Bjorkquist made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dunphy, to approve the two initiatives. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Information Items:

Outreach Opportunities – Ms. Dufva presented an overview of the goals and types of PSTA outreach activities. She indicated that the current opportunities in downtown Clearwater and St. Petersburg are the Spring Break Park and Ride and Downtown Looper survey. She reviewed how to conduct a survey, the proper attire to wear to represent PSTA, and how to sign up for volunteer opportunities. She provided PSTA TRAC polos and business cards to the Committee to use while engaging in volunteer opportunities and responding to fellow transit rider questions. TRAC members will receive an email with the Google docs sign-up calendar to volunteer for the public engagement activities.

Proposed Service Adjustments – Bob Lasher, PSTA External Affairs Officer, gave a brief overview of the possible service cuts that will be presented at the PSTA Board meeting for their approval. He explained the possible cuts would be Routes 22, 58, parts of Route 5, 16 and 38, and the Safety Harbor and Dunedin connectors. There was a brief discussion and a few questions that were answered by Mr. Lasher. He informed TRAC that there will be a Public Hearing on the proposed Service Cuts on Wednesday, April 10th at 6:00 PM at PSTA headquarters.

Member Comments:

Mr. Grant requested a future tutorial on “how to use the Transit App.” Ms. Graham informed Committee members that she has heard comments from riders of Route 22 who are upset that their route might be discontinued. Ms. Anderson also mentioned that several students at St. Petersburg College (SPC) Gibbs are upset about possible cuts to Route 5.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm. The next TRAC meeting will be held on April 16, 2019 at 4:00 pm.