



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2021

Chairperson Gerard called the March 31, 2021 Board meeting to order at 9:00 am. Members present: Pat Gerard, Chairperson, Gina Driscoll, Vice-Chairperson, Dan Saracki, Secretary/Treasurer; Dave Allbritton, Vince Cocks, Rene Flowers, Michael Fridovich, Jeff Gow, Janet Long, Jamie Robinson, Keith Sabiel, and Josh Shulman. Member absent: Kathleen Peters. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO and PSTA staff members. Attending via Zoom: Richard Bennett, Deborah Figgs-Sanders, Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel, and members of the public.

Call to Order:

Ms. Flowers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Allbritton, to allow Mr. Bennett and Ms. Figgs-Sanders to participate in the meeting via Zoom. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Mr. Miller read one written comment which was received by email regarding the paratransit contract. This person expressed concern about the taxi company handling the service. He said that staff has reached out to this person.

Awards and Recognition:

Women's History Month – Whitney Fox, Director of Communications and Marketing, showed a video the Marketing staff created in honor of Women's History Month and Driver's Appreciation day.

Recognize Bus Operator Ramon Larios – Jeff Thompson, Director of Transportation, introduced Mr. Larios, a long-time Bus Operator who is retiring next month after 32 years of service. Mr. Ramon thanked PSTA for everything.

Committee Updates:

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) Update – Duncan Kovar, Committee Chairperson, reported on the March TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas – Ms. Long provided an update on the recent Forward Pinellas meeting.

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) Update – Ms. Flowers provided information on the recent TBARTA meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Ms. Long made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bennett, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda which included approval of the February 24, 2021 minutes, the Forward Pinellas Transit Planning Funding agreement, the hybrid bus overhaul batteries, the Transit Advertising contract modification, acceptance of the insurance claim, and the Dunedin Autonomous Vehicle Advantage (AVA) Pilot agreement.

Action Items:

FY20 Audit Report – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, and Julie Lupis, Director of Accounting, introduced PSTA's Audit Firm, Cherry Bekaert, who provided a brief outline of the FY20 audit results. It was noted that it was a clean audit. Mr. Saracki made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long, to accept the FY20 Audit Report. There were no public comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Funding Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)/Bus on Shoulder Pilot – Abhishek Dayal, Director of Project Management, and Kessia Harris, Assistant Project Manager, gave a presentation on the Bus on Shoulder pilot project on I-275. Staff is recommending approval of an agreement and resolution with FDOT to receive funding for marketing/communication signage and messaging. Questions and comments were made about protocols for vehicles exiting at the same time as the bus, driver training, which side of the highway the bus will be on, and how this will be beneficial. There were no public comments. Mr. Zimmet read Resolution #21-01 by title. Ms. Flowers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long, to approve the funding agreement with FDOT and adopt the Resolution. Motion passed (13:1), with Mr. Bennett dissenting.

Information Items:

10-Year Jolley Trolley Agreement – Mr. Miller talked about the plan for a 10-year agreement with Jolley Trolley. It was noted that Jolley Trolley will be obtaining land for a new facility/garage. James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, showed where the new facility will be located and the financial plan for purchasing the parcel of land. He also mentioned the funding throughout the ten years, as well as the proposed changes to the agreement. Mr. Bradford added that staff will have a more detailed plan next month. Questions were asked about fuel, fleet replacement plan, low-floor trolleys, passenger capacity, the Clearwater lease agreement, type of vehicles the Jolley Trolley will purchase, technology, cost for diesel trolleys versus electric, longevity of a trolley, and electric batteries.

Reports and Correspondence:

Performance Updates – The report was included in the packet.

FY22 Budget Assumptions – Mr. Miller said that there are two reports included in the packet including the FY22 budget assumptions.

Future Meeting Subjects:

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

Other Business:

Mr. Miller talked about the AVA pilot in St. Petersburg, which has ended. He said that the service will now be located in downtown Dunedin, followed by Clearwater Beach. He also mentioned the COVID vaccination dates at PSTA for staff and family members, the support from cities for PSTA's Federal earmark requests for electric charging infrastructure in Clearwater and St. Petersburg, and upcoming community events for Earth Day.

Board Member Comments:

Ms. Long talked about conversations with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), relating to the work PSTA is doing and the Agency's vision. She said there is a proposed listening tour with the Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, in the near future. It was mentioned that there are spam emails going around from Board members asking people to purchase gift cards - please delete those emails. Mr. Fridovich mentioned a memorial event in Gulfport on April 10th to honor a veteran.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chairperson Gerard adjourned the meeting at 10:34 am. The next meeting is April 28, 2021 at 9:00 am.

Chairperson