



Worcester Regional Transit Authority

Moving Our Region Forward

Union Station Hub 60 Foster Street Worcester, MA 01608

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WRTA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 15, 2017  
MINUTES

WRTA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairperson Lehtola called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Advisory Board Members present: Mark Binnall - Auburn, Rudy Heller – Brookfield, Barbara Connelly – Grafton, Anita Scheipers – West Boylston, Robert Spain - Millbury, Jacob Sanders – Worcester, William Lehtola – Spencer. Noted activity of board member: *Sharon Yager-Shrewsbury arrived at 8:55 a.m.*

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to accept the minutes for May 18, 2017. On motion by Robert Spain, seconded by Mark Binnall and carried unanimously, the Advisory Board accepted the minutes of May 18, 2017.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to elect the officers for the WRTA Advisory Board for the year 2018. No members had any discussion regarding the motion.

**Motion: I move that: The WRTA Advisory Board elects the following persons as officers for the WRTA Advisory Board for FY 18. Chairperson Mr. William Lehtola, Vice-Chairperson Mr. Edward Augustus, Jr., Clerk Mr. Dennis Lipka and Treasurer Mr. Douglas Belanger.**

On motion by Jacob Sanders, seconded by Mark Binnall, and carried unanimously, the Advisory Board elected the WRTA officers for FY 18.

Mark Binnall commented on an incident of panhandling some time ago at the Hub. Mr. Church stated they have made security aware of the need to survey both the front and back of the property. Mark Binnall asked about backup systems for the phone system with Charter Communications. Ms. Kusterski stated that a system wide blackout did occur in the past and it lasted no longer then forty-five minutes.

***Communities Served:***

Auburn	Brimfield	Douglas	Grafton	Millbury	North	Paxton	Southbridge	Wales	West Boylston
Barre	Brookfield	Dudley	Holden	New Braintree	Brookfield	Princeton	Spencer	Warren	West
Berlin	Charlton	East	Holland	Northborough	Oakham	Rutland	Sturbridge	Webster	Brookfield
Boylston	Clinton	Brookfield	Leicester	Northbridge	Oxford	Shrewsbury	Sutton	Westborough	Worcester

Robert Spain recognized with gratitude Mr. Church's participation in the Millbury Board of Selectmen meeting regarding their service changes. Mr. Spain requested the board receive quarterly reports on the shopper service ridership.

Rudy Heller passed along information regarding House bill 1726 and Senate Bill 1821 which he called; "An Act to Promote Green Infrastructure and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Create Jobs" – also known as carbon pricing. Rudy Heller stated any funding received by municipalities can potentially have twenty (20%) percent slated for transportation. Rudy Heller requested that Mr. Church arrange for the board members to be emailed information on the legislation.

Chairperson Lehtola requested that copies of the CMRPC presentation be emailed to the board members. Mr. Church stated the Administration would comply.

Board members discussed the upcoming schedule regarding information about the service changes. Mr. Parker stated that June 21-23 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. an information table would be staffed on the Hub platform to answer any questions about the service changes. Mr. Parker informed the board that route schedules were being printed and would be out next week.

## BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chairperson asked if there was any business from the public and no one responded.

## ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

### FINANCE

*a. Update Commonwealth Budget for FY 2018 — Conference Committee between House and Senate*

The Commonwealth budget for the RTA's is being worked out in conference committee. The RTA's are hoping for a minimum of \$82 million. The House (\$81 million) and Senate (\$83 million) are one million above and below this figure while the Governor proposed \$80 million. It is likely funding will fall between the House and Senate numbers as the legislator can override a Governor's veto. Mr. Church stated that the MBTA will be getting \$1.3 million which is the same as last year.

*b. Capital funds available — WRTA request submitted to MassDOT Rail and Transit*

The WRTA will benefit from another transit authority not spending some of their capital funds in FY'17. The WRTA will therefore have one hundred and fifty thousand (\$150,000) dollars to spend on capital items. The items purchased with this money were originally budgeted for FY'18. Mr. Coyne stated the money spent is not on a match basis and all purchases need to be delivered before June 30, 2017. The WRTA will purchase forty-one thousand (\$41,000) dollars in computer software, sixty-five thousand (\$65,000) dollars in support services, thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for capital spending, three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) in shop items. Mr. Coyne explained that the Hub camera system would be updated to meet with consistent memory storage as well as a new window for customer service for security needs. Mr. Coyne stated that money saved due to the capital funding availability will be allotted for other purposes within the FY'18 budget.

## OTHER

*a. Update on Elder Shopper service — effective June 24, 2017*

Mr. Church reviewed the changes to the Elder Shopper service which will go into effect on June 24, 2017. Mr. Church acknowledged that some consolidations were made and after a ridership survey a new drop off location at 50 Cambridge Street was added. Mr. Parker explained how the service was once funded by specific stores however that has not been the case in some years. Mr. Parker confirmed the service would run weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mr. Parker acknowledged that new schedules were posted at all appropriate housing complexes.

*b. Update on TSA site visit and ongoing work*

Mr. Church announced that the Federal Transportation Security Administration is continuing to review WRTA security and safety policies. On June 15, 2017, the TSA will visit both the Hub and the M & O Facility. The WRTA Administration will review the recommendation from the TSA and make any applicable changes. Mr. Church notified the board members that the RFP for security will be put out to bid in July. Jacob Sanders asked when the contract for the security company expires. Mr. Coyne stated they have no contract with the company. Mark Binnall asked if the WRTA has done mock drills. Mr. Church stated he has spoken with the TSA in this regard and they encouraged doing such drills. Mr. Parker informed the board members that Operations have participated in “table top” drills and traditionally they have been at off-site locations. Mr. Church informed the board that both Mr. Coyne and Ms. Dombrowski are participants on the Central Region Security Homeland Advisory Council.

Jacob Sanders asked if the WPD has been part of security talks the WRTA Administration has been having. Jacob Sanders recommended that the WPD be included to better define security needs and responses. Mr. Church stated that when the recommendations are reviewed he will look into this. Chairperson Lehtola asked that Jacob Sanders be updated via email as to security talks and recommendations.

*c. CMRPC — Fixed Route Service Statistics Presentation —January-April 2017*

Mr. Church introduced Mr. Burnham from CMRPC who gave a quarterly presentation of the statistics from January through April 2017. The report compares 2016 to 2017 January through April as well as overall FY'16 vs. FY'17 YTD statistics. A brief and partial overview is provided. Monthly passenger Revenue changed from FY'16 by - 8.6% while total revenue changed by -8.5%. Total revenue YTD was -7.6% changed from FY'16. Ridership overall FY'17 vs. FY'16 changed -11%. This decrease is fairly consistent with trends in RTA's across the State.

*d. PBSTM — Customer Service Statistics Presentation —January-April 2017*

Mr. Church introduced Ms. Kosterski who gave a quarterly update from January through April 2017. The presentation highlighted Fixed route & Paratransit calls, feedback requests, and window transactions. Ms. Kosterski noted that March was the busier month due to the public meetings regarding upcoming service changes.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to adjourn. On motion by Robert Spain, seconded by Barbara Connelly, and carried unanimously, the Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next WRTA Advisory Board Meeting will be on August 17, 2017 at 8:30 a.m., located at the WRTA Hub, 60 Foster Street, Worcester, MA 01608, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.