



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 SEPTEMBER 20, 2018 MINUTES

## WRTA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairperson Lehtola called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

## ATTENDANCE

Advisory Board Member present:, John Ostrosky – Shrewsbury, Barbara Connelly – Grafton, Brian Bullock – Holden, Robert Spain – Millbury, Jacob Sanders -Worcester, William Lehtola – Spencer. *Mark Binnall-Auburn entered the board meeting at 8:34 a.m. Ron San Angelo-Southbridge entered the board meeting at 8:35 a.m. Michael Suprenant – Sturbridge entered the board meeting at 8:40 a.m.*

## ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to accept the minutes for August 16, 2018. On motion by Robert Spain, seconded by Brian Bullock (John Ostrosky abstained) the Advisory Board accepted the minutes of August 16, 2018, the vote was carried.

## BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

## BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

John Ostrosky commented on Rt 15 having a 15 minute stop to Fairlawn Plaza. David Trabucco will report back to Administration regarding this inquiry. Jacob Sanders asked about the Rider’s position to be filled for the Advisory Board. Ms. Pokoly responded that the towns were notified and the upcoming deadline for submissions is September 28, 2018. Ms. Pokoly stated that the position for a disability position would be handled by the same protocol and the board would be notified. Mr. Lipka stated that a communications protocol would be established between the various public transit groups and internal groups for better exchange of ideas. Board members discussed briefly the possible planning of any future needs regarding the construction of the Paw Sox’s locating in Worcester. Jacob Sanders stated that redesign of Kelly Square is being looked at and public meetings would be held as the City goes forward.

## OTHER – taken out of order

- a. *Raquel Castro-Corazzini – City of Worcester’s Presentation on Youth Ridership*  
Ms. Castro-Corazzini gave a presentation which highlighted the findings of their 10-week pilot program focused on transit passes for youth. The purpose was to expose youth to the benefits of transit and to determine their usage to better identify sustainable Transit passes policies for youth. Ms. Castro-Corazzini explained the average use of the passes and the importance of leisure time activity vs. work or school use. Suggestions for pricing to accommodate their earning schedule (smaller amounts at a time) as opposed to monthly sums for passes were introduced.

### **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

Jacob Sanders thanked Ms. Castro-Corazzini for the report and stated he would like to see the board move forward with youth considerations. Mr. Lipka commented on the efforts made by the WRTA's Marketing Manager as well as the WRTA travel trainer.

### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Lipka updated the board on the environmental applications for the northern parking lot at the M&O facility. This work will be done tomorrow afternoon per the original agreement. Eversource will replace the fence this month and resurfacing will be done next spring.

#### **FINANCE:**

a. Update on WRTA FY'19 Budget

MassDOT will give the WRTA \$321,000 dollars and the WRTA will cover through finance and operations changes the remaining \$125,000 dollars. The amended budget highlighted the cost savings measures, revenue increases in advertising and the overestimated from FY'18 which was used for FY'19. No monies from the reserve account were used.

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a vote to approve the amended WRTA FY'19 Budget as presented at the September 20, 2018 Board Meeting.

Motion: The Worcester Regional Transit Authority votes: to approve the amended WRTA FY'19 Budget at \$25,987,769 as presented at the September 20, 2018 Board Meeting.

On motion by Robert Spain, seconded by Ron San Angelo, the Advisory Board votes: to approve the amended WRTA FY'19 Budget at \$25,987,769 as presented at the September 20, 2018 Board Meeting, the vote was carried unanimously.

b. Update on Audit Report (FY'18) prepared for the WRTA by the Auditor for the Commonwealth

Mr. Lipka informed the board that the Audit was completed and a meeting to review will be forthcoming with the A&F committee.

c. Presentation of the Transit Asset Management Plan for 2018 as presented

Ms. Shea gave an overview of the requirements of the plan and how the WRTA breaks down its reporting measures for their assets within the Plan. The purpose of the TAM Plan is for all the RTA's to use a uniform system.

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a vote to approve the Transit Asset Management Plan for 2018 as presented.

Motion: The Worcester Regional Transit Authority votes: to approve the Transit Asset Management Plan for 2018 as presented to the board on September 20, 2018.

On motion by Robert Spain, seconded by Barbara Connelly, the Advisory Board votes: to approve the Transit Asset Management Plan for 2018 as presented to the board on September 20, 2018, the vote was carried unanimously.

Chairperson Lehtola requested that the advisory board go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations.

In open session, the Advisory Board voted to meet in executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the WRTA and the chair so declares, pursuant, to G.L. c.30A, sec 21(3). The motion for this action was as follows:

**Motion:** I move that the Advisory Board meet in executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the WRTA and the chair so declares, pursuant, to G.L. c.30A, sec 21(3). With the Advisory Board returning to open session and then to adjournment.

**On Motion by Robert Spain, seconded Brian Bullock, the Advisory Board members took a roll call vote to approve this action at 9:28 a.m., and carried unanimously.**

Mark Binnall	yes
John Ostrosky	yes
Barbara Connelly	yes
Michael Suprenant	yes
Brain Bullock	yes
Ron San Angelo	yes
Jacob Sanders	yes
Robert Spain	yes
Bill Lehtola	yes

**Executive Session** – The Advisory Board went out of open session at 9:28 a.m.

The Advisory Board went into open session meeting at 9:58 a.m.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to adjourn. On motion by Robert Spain, seconded by Mark Binnall the Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m. and carried unanimously.

#### NEXT MEETING DATE

The next WRTA Advisory Board Meeting will be on October 18, 2018 at 8:30 a.m., located at the Hub, 60 Foster Street, Worcester, MA 01608 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.