



Worcester Regional Transit Authority

Moving Our Region Forward

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Worcester Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Meeting

January 17, 2019

Minutes (amended)

WRTA ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING

Chairperson Lehtola called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Advisory Board Members present: Mark Binnall - Auburn, Jarrett Conner - Worcester, Judy O'Connor - Millbury, Candria Gray- Worcester Rider (arrived at 8:44 am), Mike Suprenant - Sturbridge, Ron San Angelo - Southbridge (arrived at 8:36 am), Kristen Las - Shrewsbury, Doug Belanger- Leicester, and William Lehtola - Spencer.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to accept the minutes for November 15, 2018 & December 12, 2018. On motion by Doug Belanger, seconded by Mark Binnall the vote was carried unanimously the Advisory Board accepted the minutes of November 15, 2018 & December 12, 2018.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

In response to Joe Bellil (community advocate) Doug Belanger is going to try and find a disabled rider to fill the disabled rider vacancy on the board. Kristen Las thanked the staff for helping to quickly resolve a problem/ answer questions regarding Route 15. Chairperson Lehtola announced he has appointed Doug Belanger to be the chair of the Personnel Committee. Board members also discussed the drop in ridership on certain routes.

UPDATE ON FY' 2020 BUDGET PROCESS

Dennis Lipka shared the State would be releasing its proposed budget at 2pm. The RTA's need \$87 million in funding to keep service as is. The WRTA has been working on a preliminary budget and will have a draft for the board in April.

Also discussed was the current government shutdown. WRTA has two busses on order and needs FTA to reopen to move forward with the process. WRTA could have to look at short term borrowing because federal funds can't be drawn down during the shutdown. WRTA is also withholding payments to WRA for Union Station until the shutdown is over.

UPDATE ON GRANTS

Dennis Lipka shared the state had not yet distributed the \$4 million in grant funds. The state received \$8.3 million worth of requests and still needs to determine how it would be distributed.

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

The WRTA currently has a decent amount of work left to do for the State to meet the requirements for the current MOU.

2019 WRTA/ CITY OF WORCESTER LEGISLATIVE TASKFORCE PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING

MassDOT is not ready to go to public meetings at this time. The WRTA will keep the library meeting room space reserved. Outreach meetings will likely occur in February.

FIRST TRANSIT, PBSTM, CMRPC, AND OTHERS

The Paratransit Automated Fare Collection System started January 1, 2019 and so far 68% of paratransit customers have signed up for the system. No major complaints have been reported and it has received positive feedback. WRTA is preparing to have a surplus van sale. Galaxy is working on the cameras as well as the announcements on the platforms and in the lobby. Doug Belanger requested Mr. Lipka reach out to the City of Worcester to ensure the WRTA is involved in planning meetings related to the development of Polar Park. Jarret Conner commented that transit is a key component to the park and expected the City to meet the request with open ears. First Transit is looking at the turning radiuses for the busses in the Kelly Square redesign and will work with the City and State to get adequate notice regarding road closures for the upcoming construction projects.

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to appoint the full time Administrator's position to Dennis J. Lipka, subject to negotiations.

Motion: The Worcester Regional Transit Authority's Advisory Board appoints the full time Administrator's position to Dennis J. Lipka subject to negotiations. On Motion by Doug Belanger, seconded Ron San Angelo, and carried unanimously.

Chairperson Lehtola requested that the Advisory Board go into executive session to discuss the parameters of a potential contract for the Administrator.

In open session, the Advisory Board votes to meet in executive session to discuss the parameters of a potential contract for the Administrator, if the chair declares that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants; provided, however, that this clause shall not apply to any meeting, including meetings of the personal committee, to screen, or consider and interview applicants who have passed a prior preliminary screening; pursuant, to G.L. c.30A, sec 21(8). The motion for this action was as follows:

Motion: I move that the Advisory Board votes to meet in executive session to discuss the parameters of a potential contract for the Administrator, if the chair declares that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants; provided, however, that this clause shall not apply to any meeting, including meetings of the Personnel Committee, to screen, or consider and interview applicants who have passed a prior preliminary screening; pursuant, to G.L. c.30A, sec 21(8). With the Advisory Board returning to open session.

On Motion by Doug Belanger, seconded Mark Binnall, and carried unanimously, the Chairperson and Advisory Board members took a roll call vote to approve this action at 9:28 a.m.

Mark Binnall	Yes
Jarrett Conner	Yes
Judy O'Connor	Yes
Candria Gray	Yes
Mike Suprenant	Yes
Ron San Angelo	Yes
Kristen Las	Yes
Doug Belanger	Yes
William Lehtola	Yes

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

The Advisory Board went into open session meeting at 10:58 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to adjourn, On Motion by Doug Belanger, seconded by Mark Binnall and carried unanimously, the Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next WRTA Advisory Board Meeting will be on February 21, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., located at the Hub, 60 Foster Street, Worcester, MA 01608 3rd floor.

Minutes: MAL