



Worcester Regional Transit Authority

Moving Our Region Forward

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Worcester Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Meeting February 27, 2019 Minutes

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, Judith O'Connor – Millbury, Michael Suprenant – Sturbridge (arrived at 8:35 am), Barbara Connelly – Grafton, Jacob Sanders – Worcester, and William Lehtola - Spencer.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to accept the minutes for January 17, 2019. On motion by Jacob Sanders, seconded by Mark Binnall the vote was carried unanimously the Advisory Board accepted the minutes of January 17, 2019.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Mark Binnall commented on a prior discussion regarding limiting input to 3 minutes. Chairperson Lehtola stated that the board has not officially considered such actions. Chairperson Lehtola commented that there does not appear to be a need for having such a rule at this time.

Mr. Lipka announced that the WRTA has an 18 month agreement with Cumulus Media. They will be trading ad space for WRTA media promotions throughout their radio network. Board member listened to one of the promotions for the WRTA currently in circulation. Cumulus media will also be handling the baseball venue.

BUDGET 2020

Diane Shea gave a brief overview of some budget figures which looked at Operating expenses and the budget base which she explained are basically the same as last year. It was announced that in March or April the administration will be ready to meet with the finance committee to go through all the details for the 2020 budget.

UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE TASKFORCE

Mr. Lipka stated that Senator Chandler is in support for \$90.5 million which is the taskforce suggested number for the RTA's.

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 taskforce will be holding public hearings and Worcester is designated as a City of choice. Jacob Sanders suggested City Hall if the Library is not available due to construction scheduling.

CMRPC: RIDERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Nick Burnham gave a brief presentation on the ridership figures for FY'18 compared to FY'19. Fixed route was down -4% from FY 2018 year-to-date and Paratransit was down -5% from FY 2018. The WRTA saw ridership growth in Routes 1,4,16,29,30,33 and routes recommended to monitor were 5,6,25, Loop, Community shuttles. Out of the 10 surveyed 6 presented decline in fixed route performance FY2019 YTD vs. FY2018 YTD.

Mr. Lipka commented on the need to have more flexibility in the routes and options for reallocation of resources. In the next budget cycle looking at consistency, equipment and personnel will be important to meet long term goals. Mr. Lipka stated how the decentralizing of healthcare facilities can open up possible opportunities and with budgeting assistance more feasible to consider this opportunity. Jacob Sanders commented on how a progressive approach to urban transit can help the City and the WRTA.

NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE

Jacob Sanders acknowledged the Negotiation Committee's Chairperson letter of overview pertaining to the contract negotiation with Mr. Lipka. The Negotiation recommended a favorable vote for the proposed contract. Jacob Sanders spoke briefly about Mr. Lipka's communication style and his forward thinking. Jacob made the recommendation on behalf of the committee.

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to vote on ratification of the contract as presented to the Advisory Board for Mr. Dennis J. Lipka.

Motion: The Worcester Regional Transit Authority's Advisory Board votes to act on the recommendation to ratify the contract with Mr. Dennis J. Lipka serving as Administrator presented February 27, 2019

On Motion by Jacob Sanders, seconded Mark Binnall, and carried unanimously, the Advisory Board voted to act on the recommendation to ratify the contract with Mr. Dennis J. Lipka serving as Administrator presented February 27, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to adjourn, On Motion by Mark Binnall, seconded by Barbara Connelly and carried unanimously, the Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

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

Minutes: ERP