



Worcester Regional Transit Authority

Moving Our Region Forward

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Worcester Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Meeting Minutes June 20, 2019

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

AB MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

Present: Mark Binnall - Auburn, Kristen Las – Shrewsbury, Barbara Connelly – Grafton, Brian Bullock - Holden, Jacob Sanders – Worcester, Robert Spain – Millbury, Candria Gray – Worcester Ridership and William Lehtola - Spencer.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion: To accept the minutes for May 16, 2019 as corrected

By: Robert Spain. 2nd: Brian Bullock.

Vote: All In favor (8 in favor 0 opposed).

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Candria Gray asked what the main challenges to a fare free system are. Mr. Lipka responded with a brief review of the present inefficiencies of the fare box collection system as well as the necessary legislative changes needed. Issues on future funding from FTA and MassDOT would need to be worked out legally as well as keeping up with the increased expenses in capital and operational needs. Board Members discussed the importance of making any change a sustainable one. Mr. Lipka informed the board that a report will be presented in early winter to address the issues surrounding a fare free system. Mr. Lipka stated that Paratransit rides are presently linked to fix route service and that service would also be fare free. Paratransit services come at a much higher cost per rider. Barbara Connelly asked when the COA contracts were due to be mailed. Ms. Shea stated that the contracts would be out within the week. Board members discussed briefly the present system of service under the COA's. Mr. Lipka gave a brief explanation how with stable funding expanding existing assets and their present use could be of greater benefit for the communities. Mr. Bullock requested a copy of the WRB Fare Free Report. Mr. Lipka commented that it would be email today.

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

Election of the Advisory Board Officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer and Clerk.

Motion: The Worcester Regional Transit Authority's Advisory Board votes to elect the following persons as officers for the WRTA Advisory Board for FY'19. Chairperson, Mr. William Lehtola, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Edward Augustus, Jr., Clerk Mr. Robert Spain and Treasurer Mr. Douglas Belanger.

By: Robert Spain 2nd; Brian Bullock.

Voted: All in favor (8 in favor 0 opposed)

BUDGET UPDATE FY'19

Mr. Lipka informed the board that the mid-year audit with Al Hargrave was completed and that this audit pertains to FY'19. Mr. Lipka stated that all capital dollars were spent for FY'19. Repairs on the Electric bus charger are underway.

BUDGET 2020

Mr. Lipka informed the board that the state budget has not been released from the conference committee. The WRTA is working off \$82 million as the budget submitted for all the RTA's. An amended budget will be presented when the State budget figures have been released. Mr. Lipka reminded the board members that the taskforce has recommended in its draft report \$90.5 million for the RTA's.

AMENDMENT TO THE WRTA CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Mr. Lipka briefed the board on the updated code of conduct policy and explained that the WRTA reviews its policies periodically to meet with oversight reporting as well as best practices initiatives. Mr. Lipka stated that the policy was reviewed by the Driver's council for their input as well as management and the company's attorney.

START OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH LOCAL 22 AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

The Contract negotiations are set for September 1, 2019.

Chairperson Lehtola requested that the Advisory Board go into executive to conduct strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining.

Motion: I move that the Advisory Board votes to meet in executive session to conduct strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, if an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and if the chair so declares, pursuant, to G.L. c.30A, sec 21(3). With the Advisory Board returning to Open Session for the sole purpose to adjourn.

On Motion by Robert Spain, seconded Mark Binnall, and carried unanimously, the Chairperson and Advisory Board members took a roll call vote to approve this action at 9:04 a.m.

Mark Binnall	Yes
Kristen Las	Yes
Barbara Connelly	Yes
Brian Bullock	Yes
Jacob Sanders	Yes
Robert Spain	Yes
Candria Gray	Yes
William Lehtola	Yes

Executive Session – The Advisory Board went out of open meeting at 9:04 a.m.

The Advisory Board went into open session meeting at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To Adjourn at 10:01a.m.

By: Robert Spain, 2nd: Brain Bullock

Vote: All in favor (6 in favor 0 opposed)

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next WRTA Advisory Board Meeting will be on July 18, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., located at the Hub, 60 Foster Street, Worcester, MA 01608 3rd floor.

Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth R Pokoly