



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 25, 2024**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**269 Melrose Street, Providence**  
**Transportation Board Room**

**Members Present:** Director Peter Alviti, Board Chair; Robert Kells, Board Vice Chair; James Leach, Board Treasurer; Patrick Crowley, Board Secretary; Normand Benoit; James Lombardi; and Vincent Masino.

**Absent Members:** Heather Schey and Marcy Reyes.

**Also Present:** Christopher Durand, Interim CEO; Edward Pare, III, Esq., Board Counsel; Roy Rivers, Executive Paralegal; members of RIPTA's staff; and members of the public.

**Call to Order:** Director Alviti calls the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m., indicating that quorum was present.

**Agenda Item 1:** **To consider for approval the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of March 28, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2024, meeting. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit and Mr. Lombardi.

**Agenda Item 2:** **To consider for approval the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Special Board of Directors Meeting of April 11, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2024, meeting. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit and Mr. Lombardi.

**Agenda Item 3:** **To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Special Board of Directors Meeting of April 11, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the executive session minutes of the April 11, 2024, meeting. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit and Mr. Lombardi.

**Agenda Item 4:**            **To consider for approval the Draft Meeting Minutes of the Special Board of Directors Meeting of April 16, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024, meeting. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alvit; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit and Mr. Lombardi.

**Agenda Item 5:**            **Public Comment**

1. Daria Phoebe Brashear:
  - Thanks Board for attending meetings regarding service cuts.
  - Advises of issues with tunnel detour signage and routes.
  - Urges Board to hire a CEO with transit experience.
  - States that no rider has requested the hub to be moved.
  
2. Patricia Raub:
  - Welcomes Mr. Durand to the new position.
  - References correspondence from RI Transit Riders sent to the Board regarding temporary stops for the tunnel.
  - States that the Transit Riders want to be involved in the search for a new CEO.
  - Urges Board to request that Legislature pass Bill 7774 to ensure funding.
  - Advises that the conditions of Kennedy Plaza are not acceptable and must be improved and charges RIPTA with the same.
  
3. Ethan Caya
  - Relies on RIPTA as main source of transportation.
  - Advises that he is not opposed to moving the transit hub as long as there is service between Kennedy Plaza and the new hub.
  - States that he is disappointed that the public was not involved sooner with regards to the new hub and advised Board to not approve any further movement.
  
4. Randall Rose:
  - Comments about the importance of fixing Kennedy Plaza.
  - Advises that RIPTA needs a CEO who will put transit first and has a transit background.
  - Advises that the current contract for the bus hub provides an off ramp but the second contract will not, and that he does not approve of the new hub.
  - Reads comments forwarded to him from Lorraine Savard regarding opposition for Next Wave and the use of bond money to improve Kennedy Plaza.
  
5. Ed Fontaine:
  - Advises he is opposed to moving the bus hub as it is inconvenient and a waste of money.

6. Representative Enrique Sanchez, House District 9
  - Hopes that the new CEO will understand transportation, green energy and the environment.
  - States that he is urging the Speaker to include funding for RIPTA from both the House and Senate and urges the Board to contact Legislature regarding the same.
  - Advises that moving the bus hub will not fix the bus hub situation and all persons, including the public should be considered as stakeholders.
  
7. Liza Burkin:
  - States that 120 letters of support were forwarded regarding H7774 as well as 30 persons testified in person.
  - Hopes to work with the Board to see the legislation through.
  - Advises to not make service cuts, rather search for more funding.
  
8. Grant Dulgarian:
  - Advises that Scott was an excellent mayor and excellent CEO of RIPTA and asks Board to deny Scott's resignation and rehire him immediately.
  - Advises that the hub should not be moved from Kennedy Plaza as it makes no sense to do so and provides examples for improvement.
  - Comments regarding the Washington Bridge and requests studies regarding the same.
  - Suggests that riders within a certain vicinity of routes traversing the Washington and Henderson bridges be mailed a bus schedule.
  - Comments that he submitted a check at the last Board Meeting to cover fare for one day for routes traversing the Washington and Henderson bridges and states that he has an additional check from Spectrum India to cover another day.
  
9. Cemeron LaFreniere (submitted written comment, not read at the meeting, to include):
  - Expresses opposition to service cuts.
  - States that he spoke with the Governor regarding economic development in Rhode Island.

**Agenda Item 6:      Agency Update**

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's Interim CEO, thanks the Board for its support and points out the items included in the CEO report: Rhode to RIPTA, a commendation, a Tweet, an employee spotlight, a report on lost trips, the budget, monthly ridership, and an update on the low-income pilot program.

No vote is taken.

**Agenda Item 7:**            **P3 Project Update**

Christopher Durand, Interim CEO, provides an update to the Board regarding the P3 Project. Mr. Durand advises the Board that step one is nearing completion and step two will commence in the near future.

No vote is taken.

**Agenda Item 8:**            **Request for Approval: Service Changes**

Christopher Durand, Interim CEO, suggests not implementing service changes at this time. He provides an update as to the onboarding of new drivers. Paul Harrington, Executive Director of Transportation provides a brief overview of the daily process to provide service.

No vote is taken.

**Agenda Item 9:**            **Request for Approval: Insurance Policy Renewals**

James O'Brien, Claims Director, makes the request to renew the Cyber, General Liability and Commercial Property policies. Mary Karns of Starkweather and Shepley Insurance Brokerage answers Board questions regarding the policies and provides information regarding the Cyber Policy, General Liability Policy and the three renewal options regarding the Commercial Property Policy.

*CYBER POLICY*

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the Cyber Policy. Mr. Kells seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit; Mr. Masino; and Mr. Lombardi.

*GENERAL LIABILITY POLICY*

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the General Liability Policy. Mr. Lombardi seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Leach; Mr. Benoit; and Mr. Masino.

Mr. Lombardi leaves the meeting at 2:59pm.

Mr. Leach leaves the meeting at 3:03pm.

*COMMERCIAL PROPERTY POLICY*

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve Option 3 of the Commercial Property Policy. Mr. Kells seconds and the motions fails. Director Alviti; Mr. Crowley and Mr. Masino oppose. Mr. Lombardi and Mr. Leach are not present for the vote.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve Option 1 of the Commercial Property Policy. Mr. Masino seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; and Mr. Kells. Mr. Benoit opposes. Mr. Lombardi and Mr. Leach are not present for the vote.

**Agenda Item 10:      Process for Executive Search**

The Board discusses the process regarding the search for a new CEO. The Board requests that RIPTA come back to the Board with its recommendation.

No vote is taken.

**Agenda Item 11:      Board Vice Chair Kells' correspondence regarding funding**

The Board discusses options to search for additional funding for RIPTA.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to attempt to partner with the Rhode Island Foundation, either directly or indirectly, to explore funding opportunities for RIPTA. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; and Mr. Masino. Mr. Lombardi and Mr. Leach are not present for the vote.

**Agenda Item 12:      Board Questions and Answers**

The Board requested that RIPTA address the correspondence received from the RI Transit Riders.

**Agenda Item 13:      Adjournment – 3:29 p.m.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to adjourn. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; and Mr. Benoit. Mr. Lombardi and Mr. Leach are not present for the vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patrick Crowley, Secretary