



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 26, 2024
1:30 p.m.
269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room

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

Absent Members: Heather Schey, and Marcy Reyes.

Also Present: Christopher Durand, Interim CEO; Christopher Fragomeni, 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 1:30 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 July 25, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2024, meeting. Mr. Lombardi seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Masino.

Agenda Item 2: **To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of July 25, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the executive session minutes of the July 25, 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: **Public Comment**

1. Patricia Raub
 - Supports approval of the contract for Kennedy Plaza restrooms and hopes it leads to further improvements for passengers.
 - Advises of key qualities RI Transit Riders is looking for in a potential CEO.

2. Robin Baddadas

- Advises that riders and drivers she has spoken to do not want the hub moved.
- Asks how hub is to be funded with current buses in disrepair.
- Advises that moving hub may negatively impact those who need to transfer.
- Expresses concerns of gentrification in Downtown Providence.

3. Randall Rose

- Advises that he has asked to meet with RIPTA and has been refused.
- Advises that there have been no public events regarding the moving of the hub.
- Advises that there has been no advanced notices for meeting and hub discussion should be done in open session.
- Advises of issues and potential issues regarding the Next Wave contract.
- States that he is happy about the employee facilities in Kennedy Plaza being improved and lists current issues regarding the public facilities.
- Asks that the CEO search is made more transparent.

4. Daria Phoebe Brashear

- Thanks RIPTA for the increase in drivers and advises that there has not been any missed trips.
- Advises that moving the hub is not a good idea.

5. Walter Melillo

- Urges the Board to approve the Kennedy Plaza Employee Restroom as it is needed.
- Advises that RIPTA, under the direction of the Interim CEO, Christopher Durand, has made great improvements regarding new recruitment.

Agenda Item 4: CEO Report

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's Interim CEO, thanks RIPTA staff for all their efforts. He points out the items included in the CEO report: CEO Update, Employee Spotlight, and Lost Service.

Agenda Item 5: Kennedy Plaza Employee Bathroom Installation

Matthew Quider, Project Manager, presents the request.

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

Agenda Item 6: Expansion of Scope of Contract – Temporary Restroom Trailers, Pawtucket Central Falls Transit Center

Matthew Quider, Project Manager, presents the request.

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

Agenda Item 7: Draft FY 2024 Financial Statements

Erica Olobri, of Marcum, presents the Draft Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, FY 2024 and the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority 2024 Audit Results.

Discussion ensues and the Board advises of corrections to the documents that need to be made.

Mr. Lombardi makes a motion to accept the Draft Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, FY 2024 and the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority 2024 Audit Results, pending the corrections discussed are made. Mr. Benoit seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Crowley, and Mr. Masino.

Agenda Item 8: Board Questions and Answers

No questions were asked.

Agenda Item 9: Executive Session to consider, discuss and act upon such matters as may be closed to the public pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(5). Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public; R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(3). Discussion regarding the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices; and R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation.

Mr. Benoit motions to enter executive session. Mr. Lombardi seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Leach, Mr. Masino, and Mr. Benoit. The Board enters into Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(5), Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public; R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(3), Discussion regarding the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices; and R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter into Executive Session at 2:35pm.

Director Alviti leaves the meeting at 2:57pm.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter public session at 3:32pm.

Attorney Fragomeni reports the following votes taken during Executive Session: a vote that was sealed during the executive session and a vote to adjourn Executive Session.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Lombardi.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment - 3:34pm

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lombardi seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Masino.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary