



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 24, 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; Heather Schey.

Absent Members: James Lombardi, 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 1:32 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 September 26, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2024, meeting. Ms. Schey 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 September 26, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the executive session minutes of the September 26, 2024, meeting. Ms. Schey seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Masino.

Agenda Item 3: **Public Comment**

1. Randall Rose
 - Inquires if public can still ask questions at meetings and receive answers from the Board.
 - Is happy Parcel 35 has been rejected for the transit hub, wants more public involvement in selection process.

- Wants more details regarding increased police presence in Kennedy Plaza. Hopes policing is not heavy handed, does not want inexperienced police officers on detail, and states that adding more police is not the solution.
- Advises that restoring real-time information systems in Kennedy Plaza would be helpful.

2. Robin Baddadas

- Echoes Mr. Rose's comments regarding Kennedy Plaza. States Kennedy Plaza was an open-air drug market with fights, robberies and has fallen into disrepair.
- Would like the bus hub to remain in Kennedy Plaza.
- States that police should not harass people in Kennedy Plaza, but Kennedy Plaza should be safer.
- Wants more transparency in the CEO search.
- Wants more community meetings and feedback.

3. Dottie Heatherington

- States that most people from the Kennedy Plaza Resilience Coalition want Christopher Durand to stay on permanently as CEO.
- Does not want heavy handed police presence in Kennedy Plaza but wants people to stay safe. Comments on drug use in the bathroom area.
- Thanks the Board for not choosing Parcel 35 and wants Kennedy Plaza considered as a hub.

4. Daria Phoebe Brashear

- Is happy to hear that a bus lane is being considered on the Washington Bridge.
- Is happy there are no missed trips.
- Supports service enhancements.

5. Barry Schiller

- Comments on "good news" the Pawtucket Central Falls Hub, increased staffing, Penrose partnership.
- Comments on fiscal cliff and provides the following recommendations to combat it.
 - Implement Penrose successfully.
 - Implement EC4 Grant.
 - More police in Kennedy Place and other effort to make it better.
 - Use buses to advertise buses.
 - Have the DMV mail out bus schedules.
 - Use events to promote transit.
 - Market the North Side better.
 - Utilize the Board, Administration, Staff and Union to better market RIPTA.

6. Patricia Raub

- Happy about the increased police presence in Kenndy Plaza. States that the Police need to be better utilized.
- Reads a firsthand account, from a rider, of an experience she encountered in Kennedy Plaza.

Agenda Item 4: CEO Report

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's Interim CEO, speaks briefly on the need for a new transit center. He highlights the CEO Update, Employee Spotlight, Service, Budget and Ridership.

Agenda Item 5: Request for Approval – Increased Police Presence in Kennedy Plaza

This Agenda Item was held until after Executive Session.

Agenda Item 6: Request for Approval – Change Order, Townline Towing

John Chadwick, Deputy Chief of Procurement, Vehicle Maintenance, and Inventory, makes 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 Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 7: Board Questions and Answers

The following questions / comments were made.

1. The Financial Statements need correction.
2. Comments on the On Time Performance Chart.
3. Board asks the Administration about the plateau in ridership.

Agenda Item 8: 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)(3). Discussion regarding the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices.

Mr. Crowley motions to enter executive session. Ms. Schey seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Masino, and Mr. Benoit. The Board enters into 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)(3), Discussion regarding the matter of security including, but not limited to, the deployment of security personnel or devices.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter into Executive Session at 2:36pm.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter public session at 3:10pm.

Attorney Fragomeni reports the following vote taken during Executive Session: a vote to adjourn Executive Session.

Mr. Benoit 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. Crowley, Mr. Leach, and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 5: Request for Approval – Increased Police Presence in Kennedy Plaza

Steven Colantuono, Chief Legal Counsel, presents a request to enter into a contract with the City of Providence for increased police presence in Kennedy Plaza.

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 Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 9: Adjournment – 3:14pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary