



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 21, 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; James Lombardi.

Absent Members: Heather Schey, and Marcy Reyes.

Also Present: Christopher Durand, Interim CEO; Edward Pare, Esq., Board Counsel; Roy Rivers, Executive Paralegal; Jacqueline Weidinger, Administrative Assistant-Executive Office; 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 October 24, 2024.**

Mr. Leach makes a motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2024, meeting. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Lombardi and Mr. Masino.

Agenda Item 2: **To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 24, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the executive session minutes of the October 24, 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
 - States that on behalf of RI Transit riders, she is excited about CEO Candidate and is glad the search is over. She wants to be sure the candidate understands the importance of increasing ridership and increasing routes and will collaborate with riders and unions to make RIPTA nationally recognized.

2. Daria Phoebe Brashear (via email received prior to the meeting)
 - Stated “As I note the agenda suggests a decision will be reached about CEO at this meeting, I wish to remind the board of my suggestion that the new CEO have transit experience, and for that person’s interview it should have been a condition for them to arrive by bus at RIPTA Headquarters from somewhere on Aquidneck Island, on time for their interview.”

Agenda Item 4: CEO Report

Christopher Durand, RIPTA’s Interim CEO, provided updates regarding workforce, passenger information, shelters and amenities upkeep, revised budget, detailed ridership reports. Mr. Durand also provides an update regarding the new FTA reporting requirement and the Providence Public School Department student transportation contract.

Agenda Item 5: Request for Approval – Award Of Contract – Reveal Management Maintenance

Brooks Almonte , Deputy Chief of Paratransit, and Christopher McKenna, Flex Admin Superintendent, make 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: Request for Approval – Line Of Credit

Chris Durand, Interim CEO makes the request.

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

Agenda Item 7: Board Questions and Answers

The following questions / comments were made.

1. Providence Public Schools - Moving students out of Kennedy Plaza.
2. Bus Shelter – cleaning and replacement- especially Rosa Parks and how to work with FTA and the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.
3. Unobligated funds and how to use them.
4. Direct routes like Amazon and Quonset.

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)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting), and 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.**

Attorney Pare reports that pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1), the person(s) who are to be discussed were informed, prior to the meeting, and did not request the matter(s) be discussed in open session.

Mr. Leach motions to enter executive session. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Lombardi. 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)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting), and 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.

The Board and Counsel enter into Executive Session at 2:08pm.

The Board and Counsel enter public session at 2:48pm.

Attorney Pare reports that only one vote was 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 Mr. Lombardi.

Agenda Item 9: **Retention of Chief Executive Officer**

Mr. Crowley motions to appoint Christopher Durand as Chief Executive Officer, pending his acceptance and successful negotiations of the terms. Mr. Leach seconds and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Masino, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Lombardi.

Agenda Item 10: **Adjournment – 2:56pm**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary