



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 29, 2023
1:30 p.m.
269 Melrose Street, Providence
Transportation Board Room

Members Present: Peter Alviti, Board Chair; Robert Kells, Board Vice Chair; Michelle Wilcox, Board Treasurer; Patrick Crowley, Board Secretary; James Leach; and Normand Benoit.

Absent Members: Marcy Reyes and Heather Schey.

Also Present: Scott Avedisian, CEO; Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Board Counsel; Christopher Durand, Chief Financial Officer; Roy Rivers, Executive Paralegal; Jamie Pereira, Chief of Security; Steven Colantuono, Chief Legal Counsel; Kathy Nadeau, Chief of Human Resources; 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 is present.

Agenda Item 1: **To Consider for Approval the Draft Regular Meeting Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of October 25, 2023.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2023, meeting. Mr. Benoit seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Ms. Wilcox; Mr. Leach; and Mr. Kells.

Agenda Item 2: **To Consider for Approval the Draft Regular Meeting Minutes of Special Board of Directors Meeting of November 9, 2023.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023, special meeting. Mr. Benoit seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Ms. Wilcox; Mr. Leach; and Mr. Kells.

Agenda Item 3: **To Consider for Approval the Draft Executive Session Minutes of Special Board of Directors Meeting of November 9, 2023.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the executive session minutes of the November 9, 2023, special meeting. Mr. Benoit seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Ms. Wilcox; Mr. Leach; and Mr. Kells.

Agenda Item 4: **Public Comment**

1. Daria Brashear

Daria Brashear is an Edgewood resident who states that transit is underfunded, and best practices should revolve around funding and collecting money for better services.

2. Patrica Raub

Patricia Raub speaks regarding the budget and fiscal cliff, referencing previous Board meetings addressing budgets. She states that she is glad that the Board rejected the budget that included cuts. She states that it appears that RIPTA's CEO and the Board Chair are not conferring and that the CEO and Chair are not meeting with Legislature. Ms. Raub also reads a statement from Barry Schiller who wishes to correct the minutes from the November 9, 2023, Special Board Meeting wherein Mr. Schiller intended to convey that in order to meet state goals, consideration should be made to RIPTA's organizational work chart.

3. Grant Dulgarian

Grant Dulgarian encourages the public to attend the Armenian Food and Arts Festival hosted by St. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church. He thanks CEO Avedisian for a response to his previous public comment and commends Board Member Crowley on his new position within the union. Mr. Dulgarian reiterates his previous offer of a meeting with Director Alviti in return for giving out gift cards and mentions that he will double the amount of gift cards to \$2,000.00. Mr. Dulgarian mentions his proposed plan for revamping Kennedy Plaza and requests the relocation of four shelters to Fulton Street. He reiterates his request for remote control heaters at bus shelters and asks for RIPTA to provide the associated cost regarding the same. He reiterates his previous suggestion of hiring one full-time telephone operator to contact regarding the bus schedule and asks for RIPTA to provide the associated cost regarding the same. Finally, he inquires about free fare for school vacation in April and asks for RIPTA to provide the associated cost regarding the same.

4. Liza Burkin, Providence Streets Coalition

Liza Burkin states that there is a need for unity for transit's future. She calls for everyone's cooperation for a budget and the need to come together to go before the Governor. Finally, she implores the Board to champion for RIPTA.

Agenda Item 5: **Budget Scenarios**

Chris Durand, RIPTA's Chief Financial Officer presents scenarios to ensure the budget is meeting RIPTA's mission. He proposes changes to the budget to restore driver positions, a work group to create one comprehensive financial plan, freezing most travel, and the possibility of revisiting the Transit Master Plan for fine tuning. He advises that RIPTA has reduced costs in every area.

No vote is taken.

Agenda Item 6: **Request for Approval: Annual Financial Plan**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the Annual Financial Plan. Mr. Leach seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti; Mr. Kells; Mr. Benoit; and Ms. Wilcox.

Agenda Item 7: **Board Questions and Answers**

Director Alviti asks if there are any additional questions. No questions are presented, and no votes are taken.

Agenda Item 8: **Executive Session**

Executive Session is not held, and no votes are taken.

Agenda Item 9: **Adjournment – 2:34 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary