



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 27, 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; Vincent Masino; and Heather Schey.

Absent Members: Marcy Reyes and James Lombardi.

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 1:31 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 May 23, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2024, meeting. Mr. Kells seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, and Mr. Masino. Ms. Schey was absent for the vote.

Agenda Item 2: **To consider for approval the Draft Executive Session Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of May 23, 2024.**

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the executive session minutes of the May 23, 2024, meeting. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, and Mr. Benoit. Ms. Schey was absent for the vote.

Heather Schey enters the meeting at 1:34pm.

Agenda Item 3: Public Comment

1. Daria Brashear
 - Comments regarding the software upgrade approved at the prior meeting still has issues. Advises that there are problems with the app, and it is not functioning properly.

2. Patricia Raub
 - Advises that improvements to Kennedy Plaza are appreciated.
 - States that she is aware that new shelter panels and clock components are on order.
 - States that there is still a way to go with improvements.
 - Advises that there is no indication of cost for the firm to handle the CEO search and that RIPTA should conduct its own search and save the money which can be put to better use.
 - Urges the Board, RIPTA staff, and the Union to be proactive in pursuing Legislature for funding.
 - Advises that RIPTA needs to make additional efforts to increase ridership.

3. Randall Rose
 - Advises that public events regarding relocating the bus hub do not include questioning the public if they want the bus hub moved.
 - States that the majority of riders do not want the hub moved.
 - Advises that RIPTA would lose control over the building at a new bus hub.
 - Advises that RIPTA needs to be upfront about the disadvantages of moving the bus hub.
 - States that there is lack of transparency in board packets, and the packets need more detail.
 - States that improvements have been made to Kennedy Plaza, but more security is needed.

4. Joe Cole
 - Advises that Christopher Durand should remain CEO.
 - States that late bus issues are a result of backup on the roadways which is out of RIPTA's control.
 - States that an impact study needs to be performed before moving the bus hub.
 - Advises that trip runs must be considered when moving the hub.

5. Grant Dulgarian
 - Advises that he wants to speak to the individual responsible for bus stops on Angel Street, West of Thayer. States that some bus stops are missing, or too far apart.
 - States that a rider impact statement is necessary before considering moving the bus hub from Kennedy Plaza. Reiterates past solutions for fixing problems with Kennedy Plaza.
 - States that before spending \$250 million for a 4th lane, environmental and economic impact studies, including rail options, are necessary.

Agenda Item 4: CEO Report

Christopher Durand, RIPTA's Interim CEO, points out the items included in the CEO report: RIPTA at a Glance, Employee Spotlight, Financial Update, Service/Ridership Update, Low Income Pilot Update, Transit Center Update, and High-Capacity Transit Study Update. Advises Board about RIPTA's recent job fair, including twenty-one operators in line for September 2024. Advises that there are no service cuts expected in the forecast. Provides update on employee restroom in Kennedy Plaza.

Agenda Item 5: Commendation of Operator Leocadio Hernandez

Christopher Durand presents a Commendation to Leocadio Hernandez on behalf of RIPTA Management and the Board of Directors.

Mr. Hernandez thanks Management and the Board, expresses his loyalty to RIPTA, and advises that he loves his job.

Agenda Item 6: Process for Executive Search Update

Steven Colantuono, RIPTA's Chief Legal Counsel provides an update to the Board.

Christopher Fragomeni, Esq., Counsel for the RIPTA Board of Directors advises that six responses were received as a result of a mini bid. Further advises that the responses were evaluated by three members of his law firm and MerraineGov, Inc. scored the highest.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to approve the selection of MerraineGov, Inc to perform the Executive Search. Mr. Leach seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Masino, and Ms. Schey.

Mr. Kells makes a motion to shorten the timeframe MerraineGov, Inc. proposed to have a permanent CEO in place. The motion is not seconded and fails.

Agenda Item 7: Request for Approval: Line of Credit Solicitation

Christopher Durand presents the request.

Mr. Benoit makes a motion to approve the request, with the caveat that RIPTA return to the Board for approval of the exact amount. Mr. Crowley seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Masino, and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 8: Request for Approval: Change Order - Init

Christopher Durand requests that this Agenda Item be continued for future consideration. The Board agrees and no vote is taken.

Agenda Item 9: **Request for Approval: Award of Contract for RFP 24-27 Comprehensive Operation Analysis**

Board discussion ensues regarding this Agenda Item.

Mr. Crowley makes a motion to suspend procurement until such time a permanent CEO is hired and to have the Board solicit ideas for the analysis from the perspective applicants to the CEO position. Mr. Kells seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Leach, Mr. Benoit, Mr. Masino, and Ms. Schey.

Agenda Item 10: **Request for Approval: Award of Contract for RFP 24-28 Pawtucket Central Falls Bus Hub Construction**

Matthew Quider, Project Manager, presents the request.

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

Agenda Item 11: **Request for Approval: Stop Loss Policy**

Christopher Durand presents the request.

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

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

No questions were asked.

Agenda Item 13: **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)(2), Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation and 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. Benoit motions to enter executive session. Mr. Masino seconds, and the motion passes with favorable votes by Director Alviti, Mr. Kells, Mr. Leach, Mr. Crowley, and Ms. Schey. The Board enters into Executive Session pursuant to 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 and 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 3:00pm.

The Board, Staff and Counsel enter public session at 3:35pm.

Attorney Christopher Fragomeni reports that one vote was taken during Executive Session, to adjourn the Executive Session.

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

Agenda Item 14: Adjournment – 3:36pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Crowley, Secretary