

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 19, 2014

The Public Transportation and Parking Commission met on the above date at 9:15 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Public Works Department.

Members Present: Ms. Marsha Wyly, Mr. Charles Moore, Ms. Jessica Faison, Mr. Dave Schwartz and Mr. Brian Farkas.

Members Absent: Mr. Bob Thompson.

Staff Present: Mr. Stephen Mancuso, Transit Manager; Ms. Stacey Pigford, Assistant Traffic Engineer and Ms. Geraldine Teel, Secretary.

Council Liaison: Council Member Richard Croskery

Guest: Mr. Rick Barnes

WELCOME: Ms. Marsha Wyly called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. and established a quorum was present.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER: Chairperson Marsha Wyly introduced Mr. Brian Farkas, the newest member of the Public Transportation and Parking Commission. Mr. Farkas gave a brief background. Commission members and staff welcomed him and introduced themselves, as well.

AGENDA: Ms. Marsha Wyly asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none. Mr. Charles Moore made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dave Schwartz and unanimously approved.

MINUTES: Ms. Marsha Wyly asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the November Minutes. There were none. Mr. Charles Moore moved approval as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dave Schwartz and unanimously approved.

GREENVILLE TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITY CENTER: Mr. Stephen Mancuso gave an update on GTAC. He stated staff did submit preliminary information to the Federal Transit Administration to obtain a Categorical Exclusion finding. He noted the response from the FTA was favorable but not conclusive. He stated staff has assembled detailed information that will be submitted any day now. In addition, based upon the initial response, he thinks that will be sufficient. As a result, hopefully they will come back with a Categorical Exclusion finding, which is a key milestone to continuing this project. Mr. Mancuso has been working with the state and federal representatives to secure funding to complete this project. He hopes to have more information to report for the March meeting. Mr. Mancuso is looking forward to moving ahead with the project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Marsha Wyly asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Rick Barnes, a concerned citizen, wanted to make a suggestion. He suggested doing an anonymous questionnaire survey of the GREAT bus passengers in regards to how they feel about

the drivers and their driving habits and overall courtesy as well. Mr. Stephen Mancuso, Transit Manager, noted as part of the recent Short Range Transit Plan effort, the passengers rated the service in a number of respects. It was not designed by any means to focus on any one driver, just questions in general he said. He noted the passengers have no difficulty in complaining about a driver, if they think one has been rude to them in any way. Mr. Mancuso said he welcomes the comments and furthermore, the comments do remain anonymous as far as the drivers are concerned. He further stated the video tape is pulled from the bus and review to see if any disciplinary actions are warranted. Mr. Barnes suggested adding a comment to the GREAT Bus brochure stating that if you have concerns with a driver, please contact the transit manager as soon as possible. Ms. Jessica Faison suggested putting a statement on the advertising tract in the bus. Mr. Mancuso said he will consider the suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers: Mr. Charles Moore made a motion to nominate Ms. Marsha Wyly to continue serving as Chairperson. This was seconded by Mr. Dave Schwartz. Mr. Charles Moore made a motion to nominate Mr. Bob Thompson to continue serving as Vice-Chairperson. This was seconded by Mr. Dave Schwartz. The members voted unanimously to re-elect Ms. Marsha Wyly to serve as Chairperson and Mr. Bob Thompson to serve as Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Dave Schwartz made a motion stating in the event Mr. Thompson's health prevents him from serving, someone will be appointed to fill the position at that time. This was seconded by Mr. Charles Moore. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

PARKING UPDATE: Ms. Stacey Pigford gave a brief update on parking. She stated the First Street Project has been completed. She noted First Street is now open and there is parking available as well. Ms. Wyly asked if there was any feedback from (TRUNA) Tar River University Neighborhood Association and their parking situation. Ms. Pigford stated for the most part it has been positive. Most of the residents are happy with it, she noted. Councilman Crockery stated from city council and city government standpoint, the changes are felt to be positive. Mr. Charles Moore stated he lives in the area and has seen more code enforcement vehicles patrolling the neighborhood, which is good he added. He also mentioned parking on both sides of the street is still a problem due to the fact the streets are so narrow. He is concerned about public safety as well.

GREAT DATA & RGP SERVICE REPORT: Mr. Stephen Mancuso gave a brief overview. He stated ridership for the month of November 2013 passenger per mile was equivalent to November 2012. He noted ridership for the month of December 2013 passenger per mile decreased a little and for the month of January 2014, ridership decreased evens more compared to last year. Mr. Mancuso said he thinks the inclement weather contributed a lot to the decrease. He noted expenses are under budget and revenues are higher than last year. Mr. Mancuso noted the month of February 2014 is looking great thus far. Mr. Charles Moore had concerns about the capacity of the buses. Mr. Mancuso stated from Reade Street on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:20 a.m. and 8:20 a.m., there are two buses that have standing room only and a third bus with a full seated load going to Pitt Community College. He stated sometimes it depends on the time of day and the route. Some buses have full loads on a regular basis and some don't.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. in the Public Works Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine Teel, Secretary
Public Transportation & Parking Commission