

MINUTES

AUGUST 06, 2020

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Bill McDonald moved to call the meeting to order and determined a quorum.

Committee Members

- William McDonald (Chair)
- Geoffrey Astles
- James Bensley
- Richard Kosmerl
- Ed White

Others Attending

- Bill Carpenter, CEO
- Kelly Parisi, Executive Assistant to the CEO
- Miguel Velazquez, Chief Operating Officer
- Dan DeLaus, Chief Legal Counsel
- Sara Molyneux, Policies, Procedures, Tech. Docs

2. Approval of Agenda

Bill McDonald moved to approve the agenda, and James Bensley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Review Board Policies with Proposed Changes

RGRTA Public Participation Plan, 2020-2023

Title VI Program Policies for Service Changes & Service Monitoring on RTS Fixed Routes, 2020-2023

Dan DeLaus provided a summary of the changes, which reflect the Reimagine RTS plan, and will be submitted to the FTA as part of the Title VI Program Plan upon Board approval.

Geoffrey Astles moved to approve the changes, and Richard Kosmerl seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Discuss the 2020 Board Retreat Planning and Agenda

Bill Carpenter identified the topics for the retreat as the governance training schedule, a financial review, and considerations for implementing Reimagine RTS during a pandemic. He expects the retreat will be a 2 to 3-hour virtual session instead of an all-day in-person event.

Dan DeLaus reviewed the ethics training. Commissioners receive Comprehensive Ethics training and must undergo Refresher Ethics Training every three years. At this point, all Commissioners comply and are not required to undergo ethics training in the Fall. During the retreat, Dan DeLaus plans to present a few slides summarizing key ethics ideas, Board member responsibilities, and the training schedule for 2021.

Bill McDonald inquired about the vacancies for the Board positions and whether the Governor or Senate has provided an update on appointments. Bill Carpenter reported that names had been presented to the Governor. However, at this time, there have been no nominations or appointments for local municipalities or transit agencies across the state. RGRTA has eight positions in the appointments office with nominees, but the Governor has not made any nominations from those 16 names. The situation is the same in Syracuse and Albany.

Bill McDonald asked whether newly appointed Commissioners will undergo orientation. Dan DeLaus confirmed that new Commissioners undergo an extensive orientation from RGRTA and required ethics training from JCOPE and ABO.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

James Bensley remarked that the advantage of new Commissioners attending the retreat allows them to meet one another. It is unclear whether any appointments will occur before July 2021.

Bill Carpenter explained that waiting until November to hold the retreat allows for the likelihood to have new Commissioners participate and would give the Authority as much information as possible to work with regarding financials and Reimagine RTS.

Bill McDonald inquired about the status of adding non-voting Board members representative of people with disabilities or people of color. Bill Carpenter explained that he submitted a letter on behalf of the Authority recommending two people to the Governor. The two people are Heather Bird and Justin Young, who are Board Members of the National Federation of the Blind of New York State and use RTS paratransit service. As far as Bill Carpenter is aware, there has been no action.

Richard Kosmerl asked whether the Financial Review would include pre-reading about transit industry trends and technology growth. Bill Carpenter confirmed that it would.

The Committee engaged in a discussion about various “share” programs (rideshare, vanpool, bike share, car share) and mobility options; Bill McDonald noted that these topics would likely be part of the retreat as they relate to Reimagine.

The Committee agreed to evaluate dates in November for the retreat, holding the retreat sooner if needed. In the meantime, Bill Carpenter suggested canceling the September Governance meeting, which is usually held to review and finalize the retreat agenda. Bill Carpenter stated that the Authority would conduct the retreat as late as possible and as soon as necessary.

Bill McDonald noted the positive news coverage on the Authority’s sanitation stations at the RTS Transit Center. The Committee discussed how free fare, rear boarding, barriers, and disinfection protocols helped to keep service running safely.

5. Summary of Recommendations to the Board

The Governance Committee recommends the full Board’s acceptance of the Governance Committee Meeting Minutes during the next Board Meeting to:

1. Approve the revisions to the RGRTA Public Participation Plan, 2020-2023, and the Title VI Program Policies for Service Changes & Service Monitoring on RTS Fixed Routes, 2020-2023.
2. Cancel the September Governance Meeting.
3. Continue the planning of the retreat with Bill Carpenter, Bill McDonald, and Don Jefferies, tentatively for November.

6. Motion to Adjourn

Richard Kosmerl moved to adjourn the meeting, and Ed White seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.