

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD

FEBRUARY 9, 2011, 5:30 PM

ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE ROOM, #155, CITY HALL

PRESENT:

Sally Spieker
Jed Smith
Jay Dulany
Dianne Blumer
Carol Wren (by phone)

STAFF:

Lance Wilber
Sandy Hansen

GUESTS:

Todd Logan
Debbie Stone (VPSI)

Absent:

Tim Sullivan
Justin Kirkelie
Patrick Reinhart

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Vice Chairperson Sally Spieker.

II. ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF, AND GUESTS

After roll call, a quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion for approval of the agenda was made. The agenda was approved as submitted.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for December 8, 2011 was approved as submitted unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. NONE

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Officers (Chair and Vice-Chair)

Lance explained that Mike Saville had chosen to leave the board which requires the board to vote in a new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for a year term.

Jed moved to nominate Sally Spieker as Chairperson and Jay Dulany seconded. There were no objections or comments. Sally nominated Jed to be Vice-Chairperson and Dianne seconded. No objections or comments.

Jay moved that nominations be closed and Jed seconded.

Dianne Blumer motioned that Sally Spieker be Chairperson and Jed Smith be Vice Chairperson, Jay Dulany seconded. Motion is approved.

b. PTAB Advocacy Action Plan

Jed stated that he is proposing to the board a campaign plan to improve Transit in Anchorage. He expressed that the resolutions the board has supported in the past have not been as effective as a more proactive approach for the PTAB Board. He proposed that PTAB members give presentations and outreaches to advocate Public Transportation. Jed suggests that attending Community Councils, Rotary groups, Chamber of Commerce and large businesses for a ten minute presentation expressing the goals of the PTAB. He suggested a goal of attending 15 of the 28 community council meetings in Anchorage and Eagle River prior to the Mayor's budget meetings in June. Jed stated that advocating the People Mover Blueprint and for the PTAB to agree on four major points such as 30 minute headways for all routes, Eagle River restored service, South Anchorage express service and 15 minutes headways for peak hours as the talking points for the presentations.

Jed suggested that the board members should utilize David Levy as a resource as he works with Legislators for funding. Financial burdens on taxpayers will be a talking point to consider and he suggests asking the council members and public to utilize People Mover to experience Public Transportation on a first hand basis in their communities.

Sally acknowledged that Jed had sent her his outline of the plan and she agreed that the talking points for the presentations would be Routes, Ridership, On-time performance, health benefits and parking issues. Sally suggested that members be positive as each Community Council would benefit from public transportation. She suggested a fact sheet or a link to the fact sheet for each Council.

Jed suggested that the assistance of additional groups such as citizen coalitions to join the presentations would ease members from attending all council meetings.

Lance stated that Transit staff would provide information requested for presentations and he cautioned members about asking others to advocate due to the chance that a negative presentation would hinder the PTAB efforts.

Jed stated that he has a calendar with the Community Council meetings on it for scheduling purposes and he has an outline of which ones to start the efforts. Positive comments were received by all members however more planning must be completed to determine which members would take each location. Jed will place a schedule on the agenda in future.

Sally suggested providing the councils with a fact sheet for reference or offering a link on-line.

Jed motioned to adopt the advocacy plan as a priority for the Public Transit Advisory Board. Jay seconded the motion. With no members apposed, the motion passed.

Todd Logan expressed praise for the boards' decision to become more proactive. He suggested to ask each of the Councils what they want for Public Transportation in their area

and to include funding to achieve it. He suggests to be prepared to provide feedback as necessary.

c. 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Transit Recommendations)

Lance provided a handout of the 2035 AMATS long range plan which is currently in review for a public hearing process. He suggests the board support a resolution to support the plan. Lance provided a 'draft' of a resolution for members to review and provide feedback. The plan includes long range recommendations and funding for the recommendations in 10 years and 10 more years beyond that.

d. AMATS Citizen Air Quality Advisory Committee –PTAB representative

Lance talked about the AMATS Air Quality Committee. AMATS is a mandated organization to receive federal funding with ultimate decisions made by the Policy committee. The AMATS Citizen Air Quality Advisory Committee is part of the overall AMATS organizational structure formed to advise the AMATS Technical and policy committees on matters related to air quality, including transit. The Air Quality Advisory committee has members from UAA, street maintenance, health care organizations, ADEC and others including a representative from the PTAB and they have requested a new PTAB member to join. Mike Saville is no longer able to attend. The Air Quality Advisory Committee meetings are held at the MOA's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) at 825 L Street during the lunch hour. Steve Morris with DHHS is the lead staff person for the Air Quality Advisory Committee. Newly appointed Chairperson, Sally Spieker appointed Jed to serve as the PTAB representative and Jed thanked her for the opportunity to serve in that capacity. Lance said he would provide Jed with the details via e-mail.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

a. 2012 PTAB Meeting Schedule

Lance provided a handout of the 2012 PTAB schedule noting that no meetings for June and July. Lance proposed a May meeting in Eagle River at the municipal offices above Garcias Restaurant for the presentation of Valley Mover and Alaska Regional Transit Authority. Think about it for future.

b. 2011 Performance of Public Transportation

Lance talked about the performance measures for Public Transportation in 2011 for on-time performance, pass sales, advertising, van pool and share-a-ride. He talked about the weather playing a vital part in our quest to stay on time in 2011. Lance noted that sales are up at the Customer Service counter and on-line sales are rising. Preventable accidents are down.

c. Department Strategic Plan

Lance highlighted four key points for the Transportation Department to improve based on employee feedback; Internal & external communication, Attracting choice riders, Image and marketing improvement and a plan to utilize long term employees' knowledge before retirement. Lance stated that a reoccurring comment from bus operators is to increase running times for driver runs that have little layover time between trips, which is being addressed by planning.

Lance provided a handout for legislative priorities in 2012. He talked about funding a project that would review the relocation of the Transit Center and fleet expansion of buses. Funding is also required for upgrades to the Transit Facility on Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.

IX. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

X. BOARD COMMENTS

None.

Next Meeting Date

March 8, 2012. We will convene in Assembly Conference Room # 155.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm

Approved