

Public Transit Advisory Board
Special Meeting August 20, 2018, 5:30 p.m.
MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM (#830), CITY HALL

PTAB PRESENT:

Andrew Ooms
Doug Miller
Gretchen Wehmhoff
Freddie Olin

STAFF:

Bart Rudolph
Nicholas Abugel
Will Brown
Kurt Hermes
Wes Renfrew
Alison Gutacker
Christine Schuette

CITIZENS PRESENT:

Sunshine Vera R.
Krenscle Wskit Patricia Bedminster
Kim Ansakoie
Sheila Rasheed
Laurie Wood
Carl Kancir
Gracera Pae
Alan Rice
Ben Willow
Sharon Stockard
Barbara Roberts
Linda Larsen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Gretchen Wehmhoff called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

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

Mr. Freddie Olin, Ms. Gretchen Wehmhoff, Mr. Andrew Ooms and Mr. Doug Miller were present. Mr. Elijah Haines had an excused absence; Mr. Guadalupe Lugo resigned from the committee; and Mr. Samuel Moore's absence was not excused. After roll call, a quorum was not present. In the absence of a quorum, it was decided to proceed with an informational session including public comment.

III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

An announcement was made by Mr. Bart Rudolph to those in attendance that there would be a public comment period in which those wishing to make comments will be allowed two minutes each. Comments would also be accepted after any agenda item. Comments would be accepted both during the public comment period and during the agenda item period so long as the comment made during the agenda period related to that item.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item 6a - Introduction of new PTD Director was struck from the agenda for this meeting due to Ms. Jamie Acton having to leave the state due to an unexpected family emergency.

In the absence of a quorum, the agenda was informally agreed to as a general list of discussion topics.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Sheila Rasheed – Ms. Rasheed said that there is no bus serving the Loussac Library. She wants a bus route aligned to 36th Ave. by reinstating route 36 or another route that travels down 36th Ave. She also stated that the Providence Family Medical Center was inaccessible due to the lack of bus routes serving it on 36th Ave.

Vera R. – Ms. R would like to know when Dimond Transit Center would be open. Remind drivers to put the chairs back down when they release people from wheelchairs. She also stated that there needs to be a stoplight (traffic light) installed on 3rd and Cordova; she is concerned about fast traffic on that intersection. Ms. R stated that there needs to be more monitoring at bus stops to stop people from smoking. She also requested 4 bonus days added to 30 day passes for seniors given that she does not receive the free days with the longer pass.

Allen Rice – Mr. Rice stated that he likes the design of the new pocket guide. He also stated that he appreciates the free bus pass for coming to the PTAB meeting. Mr. Rice welcomed Jamie Acton to the public transportation department. He also stated that he would like to see if buses could be more energy efficient in the future.

Linda Larsen – Ms. Larsen stated that she is having trouble with Bus Tracker; it indicated that a bus has passed her stop when it hasn't. She stated that sometimes she is walking away from the bus stop after Bus Tracker informs her that the bus had already passed when in fact it was just a few minutes late.

Barbra Roberts – Ms. Roberts thanked the People Mover employee that answered her Facebook posts.

Caren Carlson – Ms. Carlson wanted to thank Paris Butler for talking with her about the removal of a bus stop next to the VFW on route 21 (Mountain View Drive). Ms. Carlson also stated that she would like a bus route that goes down 36th Ave. She also stated that she would like a bus route 2, 36 or 60 put back in service so she can get to the Loussac Library and other medical offices on 36th Ave.

Kim Ansakoie – Ms. Ansakoie made a complaint that a driver was talking with a passenger causing him to become distracted and miss a stop at Regional Hospital. The bus was identified as bus number 60266, route 30, at 4:30 p.m. on August 20.

Karl Kancir – Mr. Kancir stated that he has to walk a mile to do laundry and would like bus route 60 or 36 brought back in service. Mr. Kancir also stated that 15-minute service is not working; buses are not running every 15 minutes and he can't plan his day around the new bus schedule. Mr. Kancir also requested that future service changes not take place during the winter.

Sharon Stockard – Ms. Stalker wanted to know the total budget for next year (2019), the difference between this year (2018) and next year (2019), and whether or not that budget included a 2 million dollar grant that will expire in February. Ms. Stalker also wanted to know when a new service would be placed on 36th Ave. and what was the status of an agreement with UAA to reestablish that service. Ms. Stalker also wanted to know the status of the TransLoc micro transit study.

Unidentified Citizen – Stated that she did not like the new bus schedules. She also stated that the bus drivers are lurching the bus before people sit down. She wanted to know if a policy could be put in place to have drivers not move the bus until passengers are seated.

Public comment was closed at 6:00 p.m.

VI. BUSINESS / INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Item 6a - Introduction of new PTD Director, Jamie Acton, was struck from the agenda.
- b. Item 6b - Nominations/elections for chair and vice chair

- i. Issue moved to next PTAB meeting when a quorum is present.

c. Item 6c - PTAB vacancies

- i. **Ms. Wehmhoff** stated that there are three vacancies, one of which needs to be filled with a person with disabilities. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that the Mayor's office is aware that there are three vacancies. **Mr. Rudolph** also stated that this committee just had its Sunset Audit and that the current committee sunsets in October of this year (2018). The Anchorage Assembly will need to renew this committee before October.

d. Item 6d – 2018/2019 PTAB schedule

- i. **Ms. Wehmhoff** asked if the committee had to establish the meeting schedule for the remainder of 2018 and the 2019 calendar year. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that the meeting times were already set. PTAB is scheduled to meet on the second Thursday at 5:30 pm of every month between September and May.

e. Item 6e – Free bus passes at PTAB

- i. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that Ms. Acton had added this to the agenda to get a recommendation from the committee on whether this should be continued. It was decided that this topic would be picked up at the next meeting.

f. Item 6f – MOA operating budget update

- i. **Mr. Rudolph** stated that a draft budget has not been released. The city is currently anticipating a 10 million dollar deficit. PTD has not been asked to cut its budget at this time. PTD's outlook is that there will be no cuts going into the next year.

g. Item 6g – AnchorRIDES transfer of operations to Chugiak Senior Center update

- i. **Ms. Wehmhoff** brought up the issue of an Eagle River rider being unable to apply to the Chugiak Senior Center (CSC) for ridership. **Mr. Hermes** explained the intent behind the transfer of service to the CSC and clarified how the rider could sign up with the CSC by calling 343-3562 and asking for an application for service. **Ms. Wehmhoff** stated that she would call the rider back and inform them of how they can apply for service.

ii. *NEXT PTAB MEETING DATE*

Next Meeting Date: September 13, 2018, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (Location TBD)

Comments:

Mr. Rudolph stated that People Mover is starting its short-range transit plan which will establish what People Mover will do if more funding becomes available or if funding is reduced and how People Mover will gauge success in the future. The short-range plan will also help establish how PTAB will influence the decision making process.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Wehmhoff motioned to adjourn. **Mr. Miller** seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.