



WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, April 24, 2024
12:00 PM

Board Present: Melissa Bilka
 Katharine D'Angelo
 Darrell Eickhoff
 Lillie Jean Johnson
 Marvin Keene
 Elijah Metherd
 Bernard Silverman
 Nicholas Twigg

Staff Present: Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO
 Ron Prater, CFO
 Doug Herriott, Operations Manager
 Tom Burda, Maintenance Manager
 Candace Brown, Senior Planner/Special Projects
 Lauren Morris, Director of Strategic Communications

Visitors: None

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the 2024 meeting schedule was provided to the press at the beginning of the 2024 fiscal year, stating the date, time, and location. In addition, notice of this meeting was provided to the press and stakeholders, stating the date, time, and location on April 24, 2024.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Silverman called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM and welcomed everyone.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Silverman gave the invocation, then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL/ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM: Roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the minutes were approved unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: None.

SERVICE/PAC COMMITTEE: Dr. Twigg stated that when the committee last met, they discussed routes. The committee will review a report that is broken down by route and ridership that will help when determining if there are any areas that need attention. Mr. Eickhoff noted that ridership is down and stated that may be due to Genfare issues. Mr. Piascik explained that Genfare is no longer so much of an issue. He further explained that when Genfare is down, the bus operator is to manually count passengers. He suggested that service levels changed and that may be the result of ridership being down. In addition to discussing routes, the Service/Pac Committee advised that the “Service Advisory Committee” will be changed to “Community Transit Partners.”

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Silverman began by introducing that the new finance chair will be Marvin Keene beginning May 2024.

Mr. Silverman gave an overview of financial as follows: fare revenue down is down 5.6%; total expenses are down .2%; balance sheet shows \$39,000 to be deposited in the LGIP which will bring the balance to that account to about \$150,000; KPI’s show ridership up in the month of March compared to February. Mr. Silverman stated that the 6-year financial plan will be looked at in May 2024. Mr. Silverman also congratulated the Finance team on a successful audit.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Eickhoff stated the committee is not set to meet until late summer 2024.

AD HOC COMMITTEES: The By-Laws Committee recommends updating Article 9 and the table of contents to change the “Citizens Advisory Board to “Community Transit Partners.”

Additionally, the By-Laws Committee recommends updating Article 17 by defining the acronym “PAC” as Public and Agency Coordination Committee which also involves adding an additional “C” to the end of PAC.

Mr. Silverman stated that the unanimous decision by the By-Laws Committee serves as a motion and a second. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Morris provided an update on Safe Place. She stated Sea Haven provides a safe place for youth in crisis and everyone on staff at Coast RTA can take any person to the Sea Haven location if needed.

Ms. D'Angelo asked about the Ethics form for the Board to sign. Mr. Piascik stated he would look into it and provide an update at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Piascik began by reporting on the federal changes in the overtime salary threshold and how it will affect Coast RTA. More to come on this subject as it will be effective July 1, 2024, and a new threshold on July 1, 2025.

Vanpool update – Mr. Piascik stated that our board member, Melissa Bilka, informed him that Brittain Resorts has two to three vanpools ready to start. There is a planned press conference in mid-May 2024, and we will hopefully have a vehicle to showcase. Mr. Piascik thanked Melissa Bilka on all her efforts in getting this program up and running.

TASC Initiatives Update – Mr. Piascik announced the annual meeting will be held the first week of September 2024. On September 6th, 2024, they will be hosting a workforce summit in which the Lieutenant Governor will be present. This summit will be sponsored by the statewide organization but will have a local feel. TASC is getting a budget line item (\$500,000) for an Economic Impact Study. The State Transit Association is looking at the establishment of a 501(c)3 to support transit education.

Mr. Piascik stated that the Low-No application for our new maintenance facility is being submitted April 25th, 2024. In that application we are required to show a path towards a low emission fleet. Coast RTA is coordinating with New Flyer to add 7 electric buses to the grant. This will include training for our maintenance staff as well. This application also requires a scaled down version. In this version, the cost estimate is reduced from \$34.3M to \$14M in federal funds, which would build about 75% of the maintenance facility. Additionally, it reduces the number of battery-electric buses from 7 to 5.

Service changes – Mr. Piascik explained that Route 1 will be re-routed to include service into Oak Tree Farm off US 501/Church Street in Conway. This should not have any impact on the schedule. Route 17 will re-route into Barefoot Landing, and this will replace the Windy Hill segment. The Entertainment Shuttle and Route 17 will re-route into Barefoot Landing.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Silverman adjourned the meeting at 1:13 PM.