



## MINUTES OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

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February 12, 2020

Present: Commissioners: Mike Mears  
Andrew Ifill  
Sharon McNeal  
Ginnie Preuss  
Andrea Kovacs  
Jennifer Sheldon

Staff: Doug Holcomb  
Tom Gorman  
Adrienne Belanger  
Steven DeMichele  
Bernie Bausch  
Mike Arrow  
Lascelles Stennett  
Jason Gordon  
Cassandra Beckford-Aitcheson  
Jason Scandurra

Absent: Joseph Kubic  
Mark Anastasi  
Mitch Fuchs

Public: Kathy White  
Maria Pereira

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Mike Mears (“Mears”) called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

### II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public Comment - There were two members of the public present.

- a. Councilwoman Maria Pereira (“Pereira”) introduced herself as a Bridgeport resident and Councilwoman for the 138th district. Pereira

explained how 2 years ago before she was city councilwoman, there was a car accident on Palisade Ave. at the Fireside Public Housing that demolished a Greater Bridgeport Transit ("GBT") bus shelter. This bus shelter had never been replaced. There was discussion around how important it was to replace the bus shelter to give the residents of that area, some elderly with extreme disability, a place to sit while waiting for transportation. Pereira offered her help in expediting the effort. To set expectations, Chairman Mears explained that it's a lengthy process to put a bus shelter in place. Steven DeMichele ("DeMichele"), Director of Planning and Service Planning at GBT, added by detailing the first step in the process is to order the shelter and the cost would be an estimated \$12,000-\$15,000 for the entire installation.

b. Kathy White ("White"), a Bridgeport Resident who is a frequent attendee to the GBT Board Meetings, made the following statements and asked the following questions:

1. There are people of the public suggesting to put a bus shelter at Home Depot on Sylvan Ave.
2. How do the Advertisements get put on the buses and do they generate revenue?
3. What has been done in regards to additional trips on Route 4?
4. What changes are being made to improve service on Route 15? It's been almost a year that she's been asking.
5. In reference to the Electric Buses, where are the 2 new buses that were supposed to be in service in December?

2. Representatives of Area Organizations – There were no representatives of area organizations present.

3. Employee Comments – There were no employee comments.

4. Recognition of Retiring Staff - Lascelles Stennett ("Stennett"), Mechanic 1st Class at GBT, was introduced to the Board. Tom Gorman ("Gorman"), Deputy General Manager and Chief Operating Officer at GBT, announced Stennett's retirement after 33 years of excellent service with GBT and presented Stennett with departing gifts.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the December 11, 2019 Regular Public Meeting – **A Motion** to Approve the Meeting Minutes from the above stated meeting was made by Commissioner Andrea Kovacs ("Kovacs"), seconded by Commissioner Sharon



McNeal ("McNeal"). Voting in favor of the motion were Chairman Mears, Commissioners Andrew Ifill ("Ifill"), and Sheldon. Commissioner Ginnie Preuss ("Preuss") abstained because she was not present at the above said meeting. The motion passed.

#### IV. REPORTS

1. Chairman Report – Chairman Mears had nothing to report.
2. Chief Financial Officer – Adrienne Belanger, Chief Financial Officer at GBT, presented the December 2019 financial summaries.
3. Chief Executive Officer – Doug Holcomb ("Holcomb"), General Manager and Chief Executive Officer at GBT, recognized Jason Gordon ("Gordon") for his promotion to Director of Information Technologies. Holcomb proceeded to introduce the following new members of staff.
  - Cassandra Beckford-Aitcheson ("Beckford-Aitcheson"), GBT's new Staff Accountant
  - Jason Scandurra ("Scandurra"), GBT's new Manager of Inventory Control
  - Mike Arrow ("Arrow"), GBT's new Maintenance of Maintenance Innovation

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

1. **A Motion** to bring the consideration of the Public Meeting Schedule for the remainder of 2020 to the table was made by Commissioner Kovacs, seconded by Commissioner McNeal. There was a brief discussion around the location and times of each meeting. It was determined that the times of the meetings will continue to begin at 6:30 p.m. and the location will move to the Transportation Center at 710 Water Street only for the months of May, June, July and August.

**A Motion** to adopt the amended meeting schedule as discussed was made by Chairman Mears, seconded by Commissioner Ifill. The motion passed unanimously.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. **A Motion** to bring the Consideration to Authorize the Establishment of an Ad-Hoc Committee for a Van Pool Program was made by Commissioner Kovacs, seconded by commissioner Sheldon.



Holcomb asked for members of the Board to be a part of the Ad-Hoc Committee that will focus on putting together a Van Pool Program. Commissioners Preuss and Sheldon volunteered to be a part of this committee. There was brief discussion around the purpose of the committee and that it will come back to the Board for the consideration of funding.

**The Motion** to Establish an Ad-Hoc Committee for a Van Pool Program passed unanimously.

2. **A Motion** to Establish an Ad-Hoc Committee for Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan ("PTASP") was made by Commissioner Sheldon, seconded by Commissioner Preuss.

Holcomb explained the purpose and process for putting together a PTASP, including the involvement of the Metropolitan Planning Organization ("MPO"). There was discussion around the plan's goals to identify, assess, mitigate and track hazards. A Chief Safety Officer will be appointed and all safety precautions need to be documented when hazards are identified. The goal is to present the PTASP to the Board for approval at the May or June meeting of the GBT Board of Commissioners with a deadline to finalize by July 19th.

Commissioners McNeal and Kovacs volunteered to be a part of the committee.

**The Motion** to Establish an Ad-Hoc Committee for PTASP passed unanimously.

## VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**A Motion** to move into Executive Session from the regular public meeting of the Greater Bridgeport Transit Board of Commissioners was made by Commissioner Sheldon, seconded by Commissioner Kovacs. The motion passed unanimously. Time 7:27 p.m. Each Board member in attendance at the regular meeting was present.

**A Motion** to move out of Executive Session and back into the regular public meeting of the Greater Bridgeport Transit Board of Commissioners was made by Commissioner Kovacs, seconded by Commissioner Sheldon. The motion passed unanimously. Time 8:09 p.m.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT



1. **A Motion** to adjourn was made by Commissioner Sheldon, seconded by Commissioner McNeal. The motion passed unanimously. Time 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine Michaels  
Clerk of the Board, February 14, 2020

