

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT AD HOC
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Naples, Florida, July 16, 2013

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Public Transit Ad Hoc Advisory Committee in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 3:00 P.M. in REGULAR SESSION at Administrative Building “F”, Suite 501, Collier County Government Complex Naples, Florida with the following members present:

Kimberley Bowers (Excused)
John DiMarco, III
W. James Klug, III (Excused)
Nancy Lascheid
Morton Rosenberg
Dylan Michael Vogel
Richard Duggan
Glen D. Harrell
(Vacancy)

ALSO PRESENT: Michelle Arnold, Director, ATM
Trinity Scott, Public Transit Manager
James Means, General Manager
Yousi Cardeso, Spencer Smith, Adam Amhad, Bill Gramer, Sarah Layman, Milly Haylock, Stacy Renay, Deb Armstrong, Dan Armea

1. Call to Order

Ms. Arnold called the meeting to order at 3:00PM.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

3. Introduction of Attendees

The Attendees introduced themselves.

4. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lascheid moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Mr. Rosenberg. Carried unanimously 6 – 0.

5. Action Items

a. Election of Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Arnold provided the Executive Summary “*Board Action Item 5A Election of a Committee Chairperson*” for consideration.

Mr. Rosenberg nominated Glenn Harrell for Chairman of the Public Transit Ad Hoc Advisory Committee.

Nominations were closed.

Mr. Harrell was named Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. Vogel nominated himself for Vice Chairman of the Public Transit Ad Hoc Advisory Committee.

Nominations were closed.

Mr. Vogel was named Vice Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. Harrell assumed the Chair

b. Review and Approve Bylaws

Ms. Arnold provided the Executive Summary “*Committee Action Item 5B Review and Endorse Bylaws*” for consideration.

Ms. Scott provided an overview of the “*By Laws - Ad Hoc Collier County Public Transit Advisory Committee*.”

Ms. Lascheid moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the proposed bylaws of the Ad Hoc Collier County Public Transit Advisory Committee. Second by Mr. DiMarco. Carried unanimously 6 – 0.

c. Meeting Calendar

Ms. Scott provided the Executive Summary “*Committee Action Item 5C Approval of Proposed 2013 Calendar*” for consideration. The intent is for the Committee to meet monthly, the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 3:00pm.

Mr. Rosenberg moved to approve the 2013 meeting schedule as proposed. Second by **Mr. DiMarco**. Carried unanimously 6 – 0.

6. Reports and Presentations

a. Introduction to Transit

Ms. Arnold provided the Executive Summary “*Reports & Presentations Item 6A Introduction to Transit*” for consideration. She presented a Slide show “*Collier Area Transit – Introduction to Transit*.” The following was highlighted:

- The program initiated in 1999 providing Paratransit service to County residents.
- Fixed route service began in 2001 with 5 routes established.
- The service is provided by sub contract vendors.
- In 2007, a temporary transfer station was developed at Government Center site with a permanent facility opened adjacent to the Government Center parking garage in July 2013.
- There are currently 10 fixed routes with 23 vehicles equipped with handicap lifts or ramps.
- A fleet of 20 vehicles provides Paratransit service for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) and TD (Transportation Disadvantaged) clients.
- The program also provides emergency evacuation as needed when requested by the BCC.
- The program has a current budget of \$9.362M and revenue sources include fare boxes, gas tax receipts and State and Federal Grants.
- Ridership increased 1,137% from 2001 to 2012.
- The Program utilizes an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) which provides electronic fare boxes, automated enunciation system, manifest information, automated vehicle locators, etc.

b. Public Participation Plan

Ms. Scott provided the Executive Summary “*Reports & Presentations Item 6B Public Participation Plan*” for consideration which included a copy of the “*Collier Area Transit (CAT) Public Participation Plan*.” She reported the Plan will be considered as an action item at the next meeting and requested Committee members to review the Plan and provide comments to Staff. Following review by the Committee, the Plan will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for formal approval.

During Committee discussions, the following was highlighted:

- Consideration should be given to improving the visibility on the buses for notification of events, meetings, issues, etc. as currently they are displayed in the front of the bus and difficult for patrons to read.
- Consideration should be given to utilizing television or radio media to broadcast messages; this is especially helpful for individuals who possess reading difficulties.

7. Member Comments

The following was highlighted:

- Consideration should be given to installing Braille strips on the posts at the new transfer facility and bus stops so individuals with vision impairment may determine the loading location for the various buses serving the routes.
- The system providing the brief pre recorded messages aired at the transfer facility or on the buses should be enhanced to aid in educating the riders on upcoming events, service changes, rules changes, etc.
- Consideration should be given to extending service until 10:00pm for employees and patrons/clients of various facilities such as the hospitals or malls.
- Data should be collected and analyzed to aid in identifying the need for additional bus stop locations.
- Consideration should be given to partnering with the tourism industry to increase ridership, especially given the increasing number of foreign tourists who are accustomed to utilizing public transportation.

Mr. Means reported if demand is demonstrated for additional routes or bus stop locations, consideration would be given to adding stops or routes.

Staff reported, given the ITS, it is now much easier to garner statistics on the users of the system. This information could assist in identifying if added service is required and/or how existing service may be improved.

8. Public Comments

Milly Haylock, Golden Gate Resident addressed the Committee and requested consideration be given to expanding service in the Golden Gate Estates area.

9. Distribution Items

Trinity Scott reported the following items are provided to members for information purposes:

- *Resolution No. 50 creating the Committee.*
- *Collier County Ordinance 2001 – 55 establishing standards for County Advisory Boards.*
- *Government in the Sunshine from the Office of the County Attorney Jeffrey A. Klatzkow, County Attorney.*

Chairman Harrell noted, due to Sunshine Law requirements, a Committee members should not discuss any business that may become before the Committee with another member. Emails should be disseminated through the Staff liaison and members should reply only to the Staff liaison with any comments, not other members.

10. Next Meeting Date
August 20, 2013

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chair at 4:30P.M.

Glen D. Harrell, Chairman

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on _____
as presented _____ or as amended _____.