

Spokane Transit Authority
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CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2011
Southside Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT

Fyrne Bemiller
Susanne Croft
Victor Frazier
Resa Hayes
Charles Hansen
Ted Horobiowski
Will Flanigan
Larry Luton
Dean Lynch
Fran Papenleur
Philip Rudy
Brenda Smits, Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Blaska, Director of Operations
Lynda Warren, Director of Finance
Charlie Phillips, Maintenance Analyst

GUESTS PRESENT

None

MEMBERS ABSENT

Margaret Jones

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Ms. Smits called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. and conducted roll call.

2. MINUTES OF THE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Corrections or Approval

a.) Ms. Smits asked the Committee to address the meeting minutes of September 14, 2011.

Mr. Horobiowski made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Hayes seconded. The Committee approved the minutes as written.

3. PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS

a.) Mr. Hansen mentioned that the Washington State Transportation Commission is conducting a transportation survey and anyone that wants to take the survey could go to the website www.voiceofwashingtonsurvey.org. The survey asks questions about new roads, public transportation, bike lanes and at the very end of the survey it asks how it will be paid for. Apparently if you sign up, there will be more surveys - about one a month. Ms. Croft mentioned that SRTC had something like that last year, but it was difficult determining the costs.

b.) Mr. Horobiowski mentioned that he was in Olympia for the annual Governor's Commute Trip Reduction Award Ceremony. He was interviewed regarding this along with Avista's participation and award.

c.) Ms. Croft mentioned that Sustainable Resources (where she works) was the winner of the Clean Northwest Committee Catalyst award, in the Clean Green organization of the year category.

d.) Ms. Papenleur asked about the status of the service reductions. Mr. Blaska mentioned that something this big might need some adjustments. He mentioned we are "kind of victims of our own success". We increased the frequency on Liberty Lake commuter routes (now servicing Mirabeau P & R on way in to town) and increased frequency of service to EWU. Mr. Blaska mentioned they are trying to

accommodate 3 markets in Cheney; 165 is the commuter route, Route 66 is tailored for the University population and a new route 68 that services Cheney. We had hoped to have all that done with some savings in resources. Once we introduced 15 minute service it is now more attractive. We have had to reintroduce capacity due to increased loads. At EWU it is about balancing the loads. Probably haven't reached total resolution yet. We still have people complaining about standing loads. There are other tweaks we will have to do. Route 27 – keeping it on time is a problem due to traffic on Francis. The cross town connectivity in North Spokane with the elimination of the Garland route and because Francis does not go all the way across is a short coming and we are getting feedback. We knew it would be a short coming and we are still working on it. Overall, with the scope of the change, we have fewer unhappy people by making surgical changes rather than making wholesale cuts. Mr. Luton mentioned that the connection between Riverpoint and Cheney is risky. People are worried about missing the last bus and getting stuck downtown. Mr. Blaska said that on Route 29 & 66 – we might need to break the interline. Right now they are both 40' busses. We might need to break the interline in order to use a 60' bus on those trips. We need to make that connection work and the risk of that last bus running late is pretty remote. Mr. Luton asked if there is there some way to assure people that they won't miss the bus. Mr. Blaska said that the bus operators will radio each other and let them know that a passenger needs to get on that last bus ride to Cheney.

Mr. Blaska mentioned that ridership is not down after the cut. We have had to introduce more busses. Are we going to accrue the savings that we had hoped for? If we don't, are we going to have to have cut other places?

Mr. Blaska asked if the service changes were working okay for the committee members.

Ms. Papenleur said that a co-worker mentioned that they appreciated the clean-up bus that came by to pick up people who missed busses etc. after the service change.

Those in Liberty Lake that used to have a direct route to downtown have to stop at Mirabeau now and they aren't very happy compared to Cheney people. That route is more crowded. Mr. Blaska mentioned that they don't like to have standing loads on the freeways, but it may not be worth adding another bus.

5. SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

Several attachments were included with the packet today. The Senate Bill related to LEED was handed out. It includes the legislation and requirements for LEED, how you accrue points, and what is a LEED silver. The financial analysis with the Senate Bill was not available.

Discussion continued around policy 1.4 specifically the 3rd and 4th bullet points. There was a discussion of the impact if LEED is part of the final policy. Mr. Blaska mentioned it would involve more time and he was not sure of the financial impact. If LEED is part of the sustainability policy it will be a requirement for STA. The Washington State requirements would mandate us to be LEED silver for the construction activities defined by the Law. The 4th bullet is not synonymous with LEED and that is why the committee kept both statements in last time. One of the attachments handed out was the assessment of how STA stacks up against the policies. Need to structure this as a program in the organization. This policy is consistent with the current philosophy and direction of the Board.

Ms. Croft mentioned that the Washington Policy center has been publicly attacking the State LEED standards especially at schools (ex. Lincoln Heights in Spokane). The savings aren't being achieved due to tenant behavior. More training is needed.

Regarding 1.4, Mr. Blaska mentioned a couple strategies the committee might take:

1. Leave the "LEED" bullet in
2. Highlight it as an item that has created a lot of discussion. Our conclusion was to include it, but our concerns are.....

The Board does not act on this at the November meeting. This is just a presentation of information. Following this would be a public hearing, then a Board discussion item with possible guidance to the Committee as to what they would like to see for the final product. Then the final product comes back for approval.

Mr. Horobiowski mentioned wanting to know more about the "Silver" level and why it was adopted by State. What are the implications of each level?

Mr. Frazier agreed with Mr. Blaska's suggestions. Mr. Lynch mentioned that in the footnotes it could be written that this is the one area that had the most discussion. Mr. Frazier mentioned that the impacts have too much uncertainty; especially the financial impacts.

Ms. Croft said that most of the costs revolve around getting the building certified – at any level. It can add 30% to the cost. It requires a lot more documentation and a 3rd party review on completion. There are updates and future tracking requirements involved. Questions arose about the value of that cost. An option would be to just follow the standards and not complete the actual certification. Mr. Horobiowski mentioned that Avista is going through a 5 year upgrade to be certified, doing a floor a year.

Mr. Flanigan asked if money is available to get LEED certified. Is there a break-even point?

Mr. Lynch offered that certification could be optional. Ms. Croft offered "Build to" instead of "Conform to" Washington State requirements. Mr. Luton asked how you would measure it if you weren't certified. Ms. Smits suggested "Mirror to" instead of "Conform to" with certification optional.

Ms. Smits made a motion to leave document (specifically 1.4) as is, but in discussion & notes as an alternate to 4th bullet to suggest the following language "Build to Washington State standards...." and "certification optional". Roll call vote taken: Dr. Rudy- No, Mr. Horobiowski-Yes, Mr. Frazier-Yes, Ms. Croft-Yes, Ms. Smits-Yes, Ms. Bemiller-Yes, Mr. Hansen-Yes, Mr. Lynch-Yes, Ms. Papenleur-Abstain, Mr. Flanigan-No and Ms. Hayes-Yes.

Committee moved on to discuss Connect Strategies (Attachment #5). Mr. Lynch asked how the strategies fit in with the policy. Mr. Blaska said that these strategies would be listed at the end of the document as part of the policy. Strategies are the major actions, the "how to". Strategies are not a required part, but it provides more guidance.

Mr. Blaska said that the following pieces will be packaged for the Board meeting:

1. Staff Summary
2. Sustainability Document
3. PowerPoint piece

Mr. Luton offered a new strategy “Integrate supporting language in STA’s personnel policies that encourages compliance with the Sustainability policy”. This strategy goes along with Ms. Croft’s ‘tenant behavior’ comments. This strategy would have to work with the collective bargaining groups. Committee members had a “thumbs up” regarding this strategy. There were no objections.

Ms. Smits agreed with Mr. Frazier that strategy #3 was redundant after reading strategy #1. Mr. Lynch agreed and suggested to move the “EPA’s Energy Star grading system” comment to #1. Discussion revolved around this Energy Star grading system. It was agreed to remove the Energy Star verbiage. Mr. Lynch suggested removing the first comment starting with “Based on this audit...” which is listed under #3 also. It was agreed.

The strategy regarding assessing the carbon footprint was discussed. The audit is on the website. Mr. Blaska said that we will adopt the methodology already in place and be able to articulate where we currently stand so that we would be prepared to be mandated for future reporting requirements. It was agreed to remove the “Assess whether to exceed the currently defined system for facilities” as it is a goal statement.

The strategy regarding whether there should be one or more “points of contact” to monitor the sustainability posture was discussed. Mr. Blaska mentioned that a “point of contact” is an APTA certification requirement so it is a way to meet it as a directive in the policy. Mr. Lynch suggested that Operations Division could be removed. Mr. Frazier asked if there should be more than one point of contact. Mr. Blaska suggested that one person pull everything together as in other parts of the organization.

Mr. Lynch mentioned that the first strategy has a date of 2012, is there enough time to complete? Mr. Blaska said that the policy is updated every 2 years and we need to get on with this and establish a baseline. Once you know where you are, you can make a plan. Mr. Horobiowski mentioned that only the first strategy had a date on it – should they all? Mr. Blaska suggested removing the date and have a goal to complete all strategies by the end of 2012 or provide an update at some point. Mr. Lynch suggested an update at June 2012 Board meeting would be good. Mr. Blaska suggested that he could put an overall statement under the heading “Connect Strategies” that there will be a Status update to the Board in July 2012 with a goal to be completed by the end of 2012. The Committee agreed.

Ms. Croft mentioned she could get someone to do a presentation on LEED if the committee would like. The committee agreed that a 15 minute presentation at the next committee meeting would be helpful.

Mr. Blaska mentioned that at the next meeting there could be:

1. A Presentation on LEED certification
2. Validation of Sustainability document
3. Run-through of presentation

For the presentation, Mr. Blaska will add additional slides to show the discussion regarding LEED and one for the Strategies.

November 9th Committee Meeting: Presentation Run-thru

November 16th Board Meeting: Present to the Board (information presentation)

December 15th Board Meeting: Public Hearing Report & Board Discussion item (which would include our staff assessment).

Mr. Blaska mentioned that he has received comments on the packet from Susan Meyer which will be incorporated, and she is very happy with all the work that has been done.

Mr. Horobiowski asked if there could be more information regarding the Energy Star program at the next meeting.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business at this time.

7. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 9, 2011 – 5:00 p.m. (Regular Meeting) – Spokane Transit, Southside Conference Room.

8. ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Committee, Ms. Smits adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merilee Robar
Executive Assistant