

ITEM 5
September 6, 2018
PRTC Regular Meeting
Res. No. 18-09-___

MOTION:

SECOND:

RE: APPROVE MINUTES – JULY 5, 2018

ACTION:

WHEREAS, on September 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (“PRTC” or the “Commission”) convened its regular meeting at the PRTC Transit Center, located at 14700 Potomac Mills Road, Woodbridge, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, PRTC conducted business in accordance with a published agenda dated September 6, 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby approve the minutes of July 5, 2018.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent from Vote:

Alternate Present Not Voting:

Absent from Meeting:



POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

14700 POTOMAC MILLS ROAD • WOODBRIDGE, VA • 22192 • PRTCTRANSIT.ORG

MINUTES

PRTC Commission Meeting – July 5, 2018

Members Present

*Ruth Anderson, Chair
*George Barker
*John Jenkins
*Matt Kelly
*Jeanine Lawson
*Jeanette Rishell, Vice Chair

Jurisdiction

Prince William County
Virginia Senate
Prince William County
City of Fredericksburg
Prince William County
City of Manassas Park

Members Absent

Maureen Caddigan
Mark Dudenhefer
Wendy Maurer, Treasurer
Jennifer Mitchell
Marty Nohe
Frank Principi, Immediate Past Chairman
Pamela Sebesky, Secretary
Gary Skinner, At-Large Member
Paul Trampe

Prince William County
Stafford County
Stafford County
Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Prince William County
Prince William County
City of Manassas
Spotsylvania County
Spotsylvania County

Alternates Present

*Norm Catterton
*Margaret Franklin
*Kalai Kandasamy
*Steve Pittard
*Cindy Shelton

Prince William County
Prince William County
Prince William County
Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Stafford County

Alternates Absent

Hilda Barg
Pete Candland
Jack Cavalier
Hector Cendejas
Todd Horsley
D.J. Jordan
Tim McLaughlin
Suhas Naddoni
David Ross
Donald Shuemaker
Billy Withers
Mark Wolfe

Prince William County
Prince William County
Stafford County
City of Manassas Park
Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Prince William County
Spotsylvania County
City of Manassas Park
Spotsylvania County
City of Manassas Park
City of Fredericksburg
City of Manassas

*Voting Member

**Delineates arrival/departure following the commencement of the PRTC Board Meeting. Notation of the exact arrival/departure time is included in the body of the minutes.

Staff and General Public

Tracy Dean – PRTC
Rob Dickerson – PRTC Legal Counsel
Joyce Embrey – PRTC
Althea Evans – PRTC
Lamarr Johnson – PRTC
Todd Johnson – First Transit
Ken Jones – PRTC
Bob Leibbrandt – PWC
Doris Lookabill – PRTC
Jacqueline Lucas – PRTC Legal Counsel
Betsy Massie – PRTC

Perrin Palistrant – PRTC
Christine Rodrigo – PRTC
Bob Schneider – PRTC
Marcus Short - Citizen
Stuart Simpson – First Transit
Chuck Steigerwald – PRTC
Joe Swartz – VRE
Nia Tuix – Citizen
Bea Wooden – PRTC
Nancy West – Exstare Federal Services Group

Madam Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation, and Roll Call followed.

Approval of the Agenda –4 [RES 18-07-01]

Commissioner Kelly moved, with a second by Vice Chair Rishell, to approve the agenda, as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. (KELLY/RISHELL, UNANIMOUS)

Approval of the Minutes of the June 7, 2018 PRTC Board Meeting – 5 [RES 18-07-02]

Commissioner Kelly moved, with a second by Commissioner Barker, to approve the minutes of June 7, 2018, as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. (KELLY/BARKER, WITH MAJORITY VOTE COMMISSIONER SHELTON ABSTAINED)

Virginia Railway Express (VRE) – 6

Mr. Joe Swartz briefed the Board on the following item(s) of interest:

- In June, VRE partnered with Amtrak to hold a full-scale passenger train emergency simulation training drill in DC to allow first responders to get familiar with VRE and Amtrak trains. This is done every two years at various locations throughout the region for various first responders from the different jurisdictions.
- A milestone was reached with the PTC (positive train control) system. By the end of June, all train operators had been trained on the equipment and VRE finished up the mechanical operations training as well. Integration and testing on the back office systems is underway and should be done by the end of the next quarter and is on track to meet the December 31 deadline.
- Average daily ridership was 19,150 for the month of May and On-Time Performance (OTP) was 82%.

Citizens' Time - 7

Madam Chair Anderson noted that anyone wishing to address the Commission to come forward and for those who do speak to give their name and their county or city of residence. It was noted that each person will have three minutes to speak. Five individuals addressed the Commission (transcript attached).

Approval of the Consent Agenda –8

There were no items on the consent agenda.

PRTC Executive Director's Time – 9

Dr. Schneider briefed the Board on the following item(s) of interest:

- To help Dr. Schneider, the Commissioners and the management group, Extare Federal Services Group, led by Ms. Nancy West, has been brought in to help the agency address culture change. Ms. West was introduced and advised that her company is based out of Alexandria and they provide racial equity, diversity, and inclusion programs for many public agencies. Her company will be doing an internal assessment of the workforce and the training that is needed and of the cultural competency issues that are at the forefront of the discussion. They will be talking to all employees in some manner (focus groups, personal interviews). They will also be talking to board members and advising the organization on refinements and change that may be needed in regards to equity, diversity and inclusion. There will be a report that comes out of this assessment that she hopes will be part of the strategic plan and budgeting for the future. Ms. West stated that she was looking forward to working with the Commissioners, the employees and the community over the next few months.
- Marsha Reid, who has been with us for 22 years, is retiring at the end of August and we are rehiring for the position. The position is being elevated to Director of Human Resources and payroll will become part of the Finance Department. We are looking for dedicated human resource functions and have advertised in national publications, the DMV and the national capitol regions to identify new candidates. This impacts PRTC and VRE and we are working jointly with VRE to bring a new person on board.
- Kasaundra Coleman was introduced to the board as the new Executive Assistant and Board Clerk. She will be starting in the position on July 9.
- On June 22, Leadership Prince William recognized John and Ernestine Jenkins with their Vision Award during the Evening of Excellence Gala. Dr. Schneider offered his thanks and congratulations to Mr. Jenkins.
- Article – Summary: “More Routes = More Riders” has been provided for the Commission’s perusal.

Presentations – 10

There were no presentations.

PRTC Action Items – 11

There were no action items.

PRTC Chairman's Time – 12

Madam Chair Anderson thanked the Commissioners for coming to the meeting so we could have a quorum. September's meeting will be robust – the Executive Director's evaluation needs to be brought to closure and the bylaws are close to being brought to the Commission to review. Madam Chair suggested that a monthly update be provided to the Commission regarding the Strategic Plan instead of the current quarterly update, there were no objections. Madam Chair also directed the Commissioners' attention to the Engagement Opportunities, particularly the Future of Mobility event on July 12.

Other Business/Commissioners' Time – 13

There was a lengthy conversation about more discussion being needed on where the organization is at financially and get a sense of what the next steps are. Commissioner Kelly requested that at the September or October meeting, a baseline presentation be given on the budget issues that got us to where we are today. This presentation is needed for the new Commission members and for the public so that everyone is on the same page when it comes time to discuss any changes that may be necessary for the agency.

Adjournment – 14

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Madam Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Information Items

There were no comments.

NEXT MEETING: September 6, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: OmniRide Transit Center
14700 Potomac Mills Road, 2nd Floor
Woodbridge, VA 22192-6811

Transcript of July 5, 2018 Citizen's Time

Beatrice Wooden (PRTC)

Beatrice Wooden, Prince William County, Woodbridge. Um, I just want to make a statement on a part of the EEO report that was given concerning the piece about the Facebook uh the part that was put in someone sent around a Facebook picture that I felt was a racial slur. I'm the one, Beatrice Wooden, I'm the one that saw that picture. I'm the one that went to Ken Jones, which is my supervisor, which is management. In return, Ken reported to Doris Lookabill, which is his management. It says that it wasn't reported to PRTC Management and I wanted to let you know that is not correct, uh that is not correct. Since then we've had classes to help us understand the steps we're supposed to go and who we're supposed to see when something like this if we feel we've been um if someone has said something, showed something, touched in a way we have people we're supposed to go to steps. I understand those steps now, very very clearly, I understand those steps. Um, this is something um, huh, I want to say a lot but I know I have to make sure I put this in the right order. If this happens again, if this happens again, if someone is touched in a manner inappropriately, if someone says something in a manner inappropriately, then I know what to do. We all should know now in this building what to do. There's no brushing it under the rug, there's no none of that. We all know what we should do right now. When you see something you need to say something. I've been here fourteen years, I haven't caused any problems with anyone. Um, I try to do exactly what PRTC asks me to do as far as my job description and what I'm supposed to do. If I don't do it, my boss, Ken Jones, will have a sit down talk with me and he will make me understand Bea this is how we do things, this is the order that you need to do it. And I understand that and we all here at PRTC need to understand that. So I just want to make sure that everyone understands that part in this EEO report is not correct. It is definitely not correct because it was reported to management and it was reported to higher management. What happened after that I cannot say because I don't know and it's not my place to know because if I'm going to be disciplined I wouldn't want you all to know, you know what I'm sayin, so it's not my place to know. Thank you.

Lamarr Johnson (PRTC)

Good evening, I am Lamarr Johnson. PRTC employee, Transit Operations Planner, Prince William County resident. The investigation is complete, and there was no finding of discrimination. I don't think anybody here is surprised by those findings. Personally, I liken the investigation to a police investigation where an unarmed black person is killed. We already know the results before the investigation starts. Nevertheless, it's done, it's over with, it is what it is. However, we should not use this occasion for self-congratulatory acts, as another investigation has reported this agency is broken. As an agency that is broken it's imperative that that healing process be one that actually results in true healing and not more brokenness. You do not heal an agency by eliminating 48 percent of its minority workforce. The start of the healing process then is to scrap or to severely modify this RIF plan. This agency claims to be committed to ensuring that our workplace is welcoming, supportive and fair for everyone, however, I

can cite at least thirteen employees that do not feel welcomed nor supported. Personally, I wonder how I can feel supported when I've spent my professional career bettering the lives of millions of passengers by providing transportation skills to help them get where they need to be. Yet this agency refuses to take full advantage of the experience and wisdom gained over 30 years, over 30 plus years, in the transportation industry. Instead, choosing to eliminate my position and divide my duties amongst three colleagues that do not look like me. As the Board of Commissioners of this agency and as elected officials, you not only have a fiduciary responsibility to your constituents, you also have a moral obligation to do the right thing. That starts with not allowing this RIF plan, in its current state, to move forward. Thank you.

Ken Jones (PRTC Dispatch Manager)

How are you doing? My name is Ken Jones, Prince William County resident and the Manager of Dispatch department, who Bea spoke of earlier. Um, just to piggy back, actually I was going to close with this, but uh Lamarr did a good job and. I was reading a book by a General Martin Dempsey who is a former former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and in his book Radical Inclusion he speaks about leadership and one section is on having a moral compass and leading with a moral compass. And one section out of that is if it doesn't feel right, you shouldn't do it. And if it's going to hurt someone who doesn't deserve to be hurt, you should try something else. In this case, these people that are affected by this RIF do not deserve what's being done to them. And I would say that because of the job that they do every day. Back in January/February I came before you and told you about um strategic operators and supervisors that had to drive the buses because of a operator shortage. And at that time I said if it wasn't corrected it would start to manifest itself in the service and that's what happened. In this past month, we've missed 22 trips, which means 22 routes that were scheduled that we give to our passengers, a compact that we give to our passengers, to our customers that we'll be there to pick them up – on 22 occasions we did not do that. And actually would have been more if not for the work of these dispatchers, because what happens is we're handed a piece of paper by the contractor each day that says these are number of runs that's open, whether it's fifteen or ten, then it's up to these dispatchers to work the system, move the buses around like chess pieces and minimize the impact. So sometimes you can start out with fifteen open runs but we may only miss two trips. But 22 trips missed that equates to approximately 800 passengers that are affected. If you went to an airport and you're flight was scheduled to leave and on 22 occasions it was cancelled, you wouldn't continue to fly with that airline. At a certain point this is going to impact our service. The logo on the buses look nice, I'll give you credit for that, they look nice, but if the underlying service isn't good and it's deteriorating it doesn't matter how good the buses look our customers will not come back. They have options, they're not transit dependent people, there's a lot of other options out there for them. So I think we need to pay attention and if the contractor again, like I said before, isn't living up to their obligations now and providing the service, then why would we use taxpayer money to give them more business. It just doesn't make sense. So thank you.

Nia Tuix (General Public)

Good evening, good evening everyone, my name is Nia Tuix. I'm president of the Greater DC Chapter of the National Action Network under our esteemed leader, Reverend Dr. Al Sharpton. I thank you for the opportunity to speak. For seven/eight months we've been coming here and I've talked about racism and lies being the fuel of this case because that's what our investigation shows. The EEO report is erroneous, it's not telling the truth. We, I also uh started off explaining a little bit about racism, how dangerous it is. It's a betrayal to humanity, it's ugly in the sight of God, it is the fuel that drives uh the racist. Racism is evil, wicked, egregious and it is the heartless pulse that started the case of the PRTC Thirteen. It comes out of the root of racism. I have, and will continue to maintain, this case is based on uh presented rather without truth or facts. They've been allegations, they've been uh alleged statements, they are not doing their jobs. They are doing their jobs. Uh, has anyone made mistakes? Everybody in the room makes mistakes. This body of people, the thirteen, have held up the PRTC, uh Potomac Rappahannock Transportation Commission. You're in the millions, you're making money, uh the public's satisfied, but yet there's a certain group that is asked to leave and it's based on racism and it's fueled with lies. They're they're not bad employees, they're great employees. They take their job very serious so we hope and we will continue to maintain our position to ask the board to look at a different way of saving money. Not bringing up new people that will have six figures themselves. It's been proven that you're not gonna save a lot of money leaving uh or asking the PRTC Thirteen employees to leave. Uh you're not gonna save a lot of money uh if that is the case. It's based on racism and uh and lies, so that is very very serious to the public, it's serious to voters, it's serious to the community and mostly it's serious to God. Racism is not a good position to be in and I'm sure this board can come up with more intelligent ways, I'm sure to manage your money, honor the employees and win, win, win. Thank you for your time.

Marcus Short (General Public)

My name is Marcus Short, I've lived in Prince William County for over 40 years and as I look around here I want to ask the question, Shem, Ham and Japheth – this is where all of ya'll came from, those are three people. Mr. Sessions started this, do you know which one you are from sir, may I ask? [Can you say that again?] Shem, Ham, and Japheth. [Chair Anderson: Sir, sir we do not respond during citizens' time.] Oh you don't? Ok, well that's fine I got some things here. Uh, the young lady said 'not how we', now you don't do that. You have a protocol, you don't tell the lady this is not how we handle it, you say the protocol goes this way, that's the way it does. Ya'll not going to answer, so but I'll ask you. Do you know the protocols? Don't answer. This gentleman just told me about erratic service, I'm known as the un on-time airline because I'll be there. If you say three, then I'm there at two-thirty. They're mornings, I'm 80 years old, that I get up because I have a 54 year old son that's autistic, and I want the bus to be there because I had the uh the thing when they changed where they were gonna be picking up at. So I'm there and uh (laughs) it's not there. So this gentleman was telling you the truth. I was known when I worked for waste management as the service machine. I gave service, never got a complaint. I could have brought a thing that's nationwide with me that deals with the solid waste nationwide man of the year. I never won it. It didn't bother me, I was nominated. Because there were people that didn't have an accident for 30 or 40 years and that's the name of the game. And if this branch here does not go

according to protocol, take it home with you and read it until you know it by heart and then when anyone stands up here you are able, but you said you don't answer, so uh I don't know how in the world. I should give you my email so you can send it to me that you answer people when they talk to you. I was in here when something happened in 2009, and the organization knew about it. My house had caught on fire, I was down here at the hotel, and I came up here morning and night and stood with the people because they were trying to cut the service down. [Chair Anderson: Sir your time is up but I will tell you that our emails are easy to find the board members online.] Ok, you write it down and give it to me and I'll do it on my phone or on my computer. Have a good day.