

Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2020
4:00pm via Zoom

Attendees

Board Members: Bridgette Brady; Deborah Dawson; Jennifer Dotson (arrived at 4:20pm); Dan Klein; Laura Lewis; Ducson Nguyen (arrived at 4:05); Frank Proto; Gary Stewart; Denise Thompson

Staff Attendees: Rick Andrascik; Susan Brock; Raymond Lalley; Curt Parrish; Patty Poist; Megan Pulver; Maddy Schafer; Bob Sherman; Mike Smith; Pamela Torelli; Scot Vanderpool; David Wiles; Kate Wood; Matt Yarrow

Call to Order

Chair B. Brady called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

Board Member Items

There were no Board Member items discussed.

Public Comment

There was no one present that had a public comment.

Approval of minutes

Motion made by F. Proto, seconded by D. Dawson to approve minutes from the April 23, 2020 meeting and the May 15, 2020 special meeting. With a spelling correction, both minutes passed unanimously by a vote of 7-0-0.

Chair's Report

Chair B. Brady gave an update regarding Cornell's COVID return/recovery plans. It was announced today that on-campus research will resume tomorrow. There is still uncertainty regarding when the academic calendar will begin. President Pollack's email will be shared with TCAT staff; Board members were asked to update the Board if they learn of reactivation news for their areas.

General Manager's Report

S. Vanderpool reported ridership is up 37% from April to May. Summer service started May 24 at a 40% reduction from last year; spring (2020) service was at about a 65% reduction, so we have added a bit of service back in.

Maintenance is at 100%. DOT inspections have also been at 100%. The new shop bid starts June 8 with slightly longer hours in the shop.

We are currently looking into Plexiglas shielding for drivers, the cost of which is covered under CARES stimulus funding. We also installed hand sanitizers in all buses. A concern right now is potential mask non-conformity concerns. Collectively with the City, County and Cornell, we need to let passengers know they must do their part to protect others who may be vulnerable. We have not had many confrontations, but we also are not comfortable trying to enforce non-entry. What can we do to get the message across? Consistent messaging; signage/stickers on shelters; billboards/ads on the side of the bus.

L. Lewis spoke about the Governor enlisting two well-known personalities to help spread the word, and suggested that perhaps we do the same – find some highly recognizable and regarded community members to be in ads on the side of the bus. Vanderpool agreed that was a good idea.

D. Dawson believes we should strictly enforce the no mask/no ride rule as others businesses do. We at least have to be ready to enforce it. Chair Brady also said we have to be prepared to enforce the mandate.

G. Stewart spoke about concerns when students return; he's already witnessed negative interactions in a public space. The need for communication needs to be cohesive. "We're all in this together." D. Thompson said it is best not to separate students from non-students emphasizing, "we are all one community."

Action Items

No action items presented.

Discussion Items

D. Dawson reported that Martha Robertson, in her capacity as Chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, asked Dawson whether TCAT wants the Board to start lobbying for funds for the new facility.

General Manager S. Vanderpool said he spoke with D. Mengle who informed him it is perfectly ok to begin lobbying. Just keep track of whom you spoke to and the date. Vanderpool said he thinks it would help our cause.

G. Stewart said the Intergovernmental Relations Committee is meeting next week. His colleagues from Albany and Washington will be there, so he will ask them about timing and strategies for lobbying in Washington.

Committee reports

- Audit Committee – Due to the pandemic, the audit is postponed to an undetermined time.
- Executive Committee – The Executive Committee met May 20 and discussed Developing a COVID-19 Recovery Plan; BUILD Grant Update; printed schedules
- Budget Committee – The Budget Committee met May 19 and discussed MRT update; Revenue Expenditure Report, April 30, 2020; TAM report and 2020 Capital Budget Revision Discussion.
- Human Resources Committee – The Human Resources Committee did not meet.
- Planning Committee – The Planning Committee did not meet; the BUILD grant has been submitted.
- Transit Service Committee – The Transit Service Committee met on April 14 and discussed a ridership update; summer service changes; evolution of the COVID-19 crisis and looking toward Fall service levels; safety and publicity; Cornell assembly resolution; the TDP and Tconnect.

Next meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be June 25, 2020

Adjournment

F. Proto made the motion to adjourn, seconded by L. Lewis. The meeting adjourned at 5:04.