 

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 12, 201**

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: David Schott, Orville Pratt, Annie JonesFrancis, Bob Tilley, Lucy Birbiglia (arrived late due to Sun Van picking her up late)

David Kesner is out of state; Bill Richardson and Warren Smith were out sick.

Ms. JonesFrancis surveyed the audience, about how they traveled to the meeting.

Mr. Schott stated that upper management should ride the Bus, in which Ms. Paez stated she does ride the Bus and Bruce does also.

**Public:**

In Attendance: Maurice Williams, Stephanie Kean.

**ABQ Ride:**

In Attendance: Annette Paez; Associate Director, Phyllis Santillanes; Administrative Assistant.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Williams spoke to the board, before the meeting came to order, about the “Look for Me”, Multi Mogal Transit Safety.

Mr. Tilley questioned the flyer that Mr. Williams brought in because it only addressed pedestrian to drivers safety. Mr. Tilley stated he only questioned that because “everyone needs to be talked to about safety, and only talking to one group, doesn’t work”. Mr. Williams stated the flyer he brought in was only to demonstrate what the layout looked like. He also stated that his organization uses traditional means of communication, as well as smart phones, e-mail, sight advertising, apps, or even vehicle wraps to promote safety for all forms of transportation. Mr. Williams went on to explain that the Motor Vehicle, Traffic Safety Division, provides funding.

As many other items of safety were discussed, the issues pertaining to transit were: running to moving busses, banging on the doors, walking too close to the bus, all of which promoted the need to maintain bodily integrity and understanding limits everyone must be responsible for.

There was a short discussion about other areas of safety needed throughout the City. Mr. Schott felt it was good to put this stuff in place. Mr. Williams stated this is the first step in education, to work with other groups to broaden the safety message.

Ms. JonesFrancis recognized Ms. Stephanie Kean, a representative from U.S. Representative Michelle Grisham’s office who deals with transportation issues.

Mr. Schott addressed Ms. Kean regarding a bike lane. Ms. Kean stated that she would obtain information.

Ms. JonesFrancis asked Ms. Birbiglia to talk about the issues she had today with the Sun Van. Ms. Birbiglia hopes that Ms. Kean would study the Sun Van service. Ms. Birbiglia stated that she scheduled her transportation for 11:15 and at 11:30 she called Sun Van and was told it would be about 15 minutes. Ms. Birbiglia stated that she called and left a message, so the Board would know she was running late and to hold off on approving the minutes. Ms. Birbiglia asked if the board got that message. Ms. JonesFrancis stated they got the message about her being late, but not about holding off on the approval of the minutes. Ms. Paez spoke and wanted to clarify, that she did indeed get the message, but due to conversation the Board was involved in, she did not want to interrupt the meeting.

Ms. Birbiglia emphasized that it was no fault of the driver; the driver told her he was notified about the ride at 11:30. He was a rover because the regular driver was running late. Ms. Birbiglia stated the good news is that there are now ten new drivers in training.

**Acceptance Agenda:**

Ms. JonesFrancis asked for approval of the agenda. Mr. Schott moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Pratt seconded and the agenda was approved.

**Minutes from January 8, 2015:**

Ms. JonesFrancis asked for approval of the minutes, and Ms. Birbiglia asked for a discussion. Ms. Birbiglia stated she e-mailed her concerns about the minuets shortly after getting them. Her first concern was that the Sun Van passengers were referred to in the minutes as clients. Ms. Birbiglia stated that she has asked that we eliminate that terminology as it has an unpleasant implication. Secondly, the discussion subsequent to the discussion about bus accidents does not appear in the minutes. Ms. Birbiglia asked that the Board not approve the minutes until it is covered in the amended minutes.

Ms. Birbiglia states she would rather not approve any of them. Ms. Birbiglia stated that these items need to be cover through in terms of stating she discussed the fact that the bus drivers are lost to Solid Waste for three to four dollars more per hour, which is insulting to passengers; how drivers are trained at the Transit Department and leave within six months; how she recommended that drivers’ salaries be increase, so as to obtain a higher caliber of applicants; and how she would like for Transit to get involved and recommend a three to four dollar increase in pay.

Ms. Paez suggested that the Board ask for a motion to amend the minutes and will vote at the next meeting.

Mr. Schott suggests a separate discussion on the legitimate concerns about the drivers training at Transit and then they leave.

Ms. JonesFrancis asks that the discussion be postponed so that they can focus on delaying the approval of last month’s minutes.

Ms. Paez asked Ms. Birbiglia, if we can just have her e-mail the language that was left out, in which Ms. Birbiglia agreed.

The motion was moved by Ms. Birbiglia to postpone approving the minutes and seconded by Ms. Schott and approved by the Board.

Ms. Bribiglia wondered why this particular item was omitted. Mr. Tilley pointed out that the point of the minuets was to do an outline, in which Mr. Schott agreed that it was just an outline of the meeting.

Ms. Birbiglia stated she just wanted the objective information on the points made.

**Chairperson’s Report:**

Passed to Director’s Report

**Director’s Report:**

Ms. JonesFrancis asked Ms. Paez if she would speak about the MRCOG metropolitan transportation plan meeting that was held on January 15, also about the 50th Anniversary of ABQ Ride, as well as Susan Richardson’s proposal for Honored Citizens fare.

Ms. Paez stated, she could not speak to that, referring to the MRCOG meeting and would have to defer this discussion to Mr. Rizzieri at the next meeting.

Ms. Paez announced that as of February 1st, this begin the process of providing the new logo, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Transit, will start to appear on all Transits buses, and stationary. There will also be an un-vailing of the bus wrap that would begin at the end of February. Ms. Paez will announce as the events come up.

Regarding the Honored Citizen proposal, Ms. Paez stated that Mr. Rizzieri has indicated that request will be reviewed in detail after the sysemwide farebox recovery ratio proposal has been discussed.

Ms. Paez discussed the Ridership Report. One item that was discussed was the ridership and what may be the reasons for lower ridership. Ms. JonesFrancis speculated that lower gas prices were one cause. Mr. Tilley stated the current bad press, that Transit was receiving, could be another reason.

Mr. Tilley also noted that Notices from the City for after hour meetings, stress “free parking” and he would like to see a discussion about, incentives that Transit could give, to increase ridership. The notices should be more about walking, biking, or taking the bus.

**Advisory Committee:**

Ms. JonesFrancis, stated, there is no report, due to no one from that Board coming to these meetings. Ms. Paez has asked for Ms. Frandensen to be contacted and for information on her attendance.

**Unfinished business/New Business:**

Ms. JoneFrancis asked for follow up on bus accidents and salary raise for drivers. Ms. Paez discussed the issue of salary raises. Ms. Paez explained that the city workers are under a collective bargaining agreement and their wages are subject to negotiations. The City entered into federal mediation regarding the imposed salary increase, and the administration and the unions have reached an agreement regarding the salary increase and other contractural issues.

Ms. Birbiglia understood it to be three percent that is voted by the City Council, and that does not say anything about whether the health insurance or pension deductions from drivers will be taken from that three percent. The three percent only comes to about twelve dollars per week for many drivers. Ms. Bribiglia suggests that the Transit Department take a proactive stance to try to improve driver’s conditions, by offering a salary increase of three dollars more per hour rather than taking a stance of having to be mediated for very small raises, which would make for a very different scenario.

Ms. Birbiglia feels it is appalling that drivers get more money to drive solid waste trucks than to drive passengers. Mr. Tilley asked if Transit and Solid Waste have different collective bargaining units in which Ms. Paez answered, they are both under ASCME but one is blue collar and the other is Transit. Mr. Schott asked about longevity, bonuses, raises and promotions; which were explained to the Board by Ms. Paez.

Ms. Birbiglia stated that it is her understanding that there are four to five accidents per week and wants to know if this number has diminished. Ms. Paez stated accident statistics are being kept and it shows most of the accidents are not the fault of the drivers. Ms. JonesFrancis stated certain things could have been prevented, like the driver who did not have a seat belt. Ms. Paez stated that disciplinary actions are taken when justified. Ms. Bribiglia asked if car drivers are held accountable when they are involved in an accident with the buses. Ms. Paez stated non preventable accidents are sent to risk management and pursued by the city insurance to recover cost of the damages.

Ms. Birbiglia understood that windows get broken on the busses frequently. Ms. Paez stated that in certain situations Transit works with APD in these cases.

Ms. JonesFrancis suggested that the letter to the City Council, be postponed to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Ms. Birbiglia moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Pratt seconded the motion. The Board approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:12pm.