

**Transit Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

 **December 10, 2015**

**Called to Order:**

Ms. Annie JonesFrancis called the meeting to order at 11:48 am

**Board Members:**

In Attendance: Bob Tilley, Brendan Miller, Annie JonesFrancis, Cristen Conley, Bill Richardson, Lucy Bribiglia, David Kesner, Orville Pratt, David Schott, Warren Smith and Jayne Frandsen.

**Public:**

In Attendance: Sandra Taylor

**ABQ Ride:**

In Attendance: Bruce Rizzieri, Director; Phyllis Santillanes, Administrative Assistance.

Ms. JonesFrancis took roll and polled the Board as well as others as to what was their mode of transportation to the meeting.

**Acceptance of Agenda:**

Ms. JonesFrancis asked for approval of the minutes. Mr. Richardson moved to accept the minutes. Ms. Bribilglia seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Minutes from November 12, 2015:**

Ms. Conley moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Richardson seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Sandra Taylor stated that she was a travel trainer and she works for ARCA. Ms. Taylor was at the meeting to observe.

Mr. Tilley inquired if Ms. Taylor would be doing travel training for the public? Ms. Taylor stated that at present it is only for people who attend the ARCA and are between the ages of 18-22, but they are looking into this for the future.

Mr. Brendan Miller stated that he saw a driver threaten to “throw” two people off the bus because they were kissing in the back of the bus. Mr. Miller felt that these two individuals were not bothering anyone. Mr. Miller felt that some drivers were taking it upon themselves to decide who should be “thrown” off the bus, he continued by stating that he looked in the handbook and this action should only be reserved for a threating situation.

Mr. Rizzieri pointed out that the drivers encounter so many situations that not all situations can be covered in the handbook. Mr. Rizzieri further stated that the drivers are trained to be reasonable. Mr. Rizzieri asked if all the passengers got to their destinations safely. Mr. Miller stated that they did. After further discussion by the Board, it was asked how often the drivers get more training. Mr. Rizzieri explained the semiannual training that all staff receives.

**Director’s Report:**

Mr. Rizzieri reported that ridership is holding at being down eight and a half percent as compared to this time last year. Mr. Rizzieri stated that with gas prices dropping and the projected prices of oil per barrel in 2016 at the lowest it has been in ten years, is a lot of the reason why there is a drop in ridership.

Mr. Smith suggested that the Transit Department hire someone to release positive press, he states there is too much negative press.

Mr. Rizzieri explained that Mr. Rick de Reyes sends positive news releases.

Ms. Conley stated, if news “doesn’t bleed it won’t lead”. Ms. Conley pointed out that it is hard to make a story attractive about the buses.

Mr. Pratt mentioned the story about the ART and how this project will cause the water bills to increase. Mr. Rizzieri responded by stating that the Water Utility Authority estimated the cost of replacing its pipes due to the ART project to be about $4 million. He has not seen a detailed cost break-out for this cost nor for the higher cost estimate.

Ms. JonesFrancis wanted to know if it would be helpful to write letters to the Journal so that the public knows that asking for a tax raise is not because of the ART.

Mr. Rizzieri believes that we don’t want to react to negative comments.

Mr. Tilley added that the community needs to understand that killing the ART project, will cause funding to stop. When the government sees how successful the ART project is they will fund more projects for better transportation in other areas that also need it.

The board further discussed writing to the Journal.

Mr. Schott wanted to bring up an issue about Sun Van. His idea is to provide a “pager” or a way for the driver to push a button so that a passenger would not have to be waiting outside. Ms. Bribiglia stated that there is system that will make computerized calls five minutes before the Van arrives. The problem is if there is an accident or road construction, it may not arrive in the five minutes. Ms. Bribiglia feels that the staff or family members must have the passengers ready and states it is not the Sun Van driver’s fault, they often go beyond their duties.

Mr. Rizzieri explained that every driver has a manifest and equipment on the van that is programmed to call to say the van is coming. However, if a driver picks-up passengers out of sequence or there is an accident the van will be running late.

Mr. Rizzieri states that he feels that most drivers help with curb to curb and door to door, they just can’t go inside a residence and are not supposed to go inside a building.

**Paratransit Advisory Board Report:**

Ms. Frandsen stated that there is not much news to report, except they are looking forward to the upcoming newsletter

**New Business/Action Items:**

Mr. Pratt inquired about the status of the twenty new buses. Mr. Rizzieri let the Board know that the buses are being delivered. They will need to be fitted with radios, so none are yet in service. Mr. Pratt also asked about the “white bus”. Mr. Rizzieri stated this was an electric bus that was being tested.

Ms. JonesFrancis wanted to enter a motion from the Board to consider writing an Opt Ed article. It was discussed if they should make this a motion. Ms. Conley thinks that they should move to take a vote as to whether or not to write a formal Op Ed piece. Mr. Tilley seconded, two members oppose, one is undecided and four in favor, it passes by majority vote.

Ms. Conley moves to form a sub-committee to write and submit to the Board and to have it ready for the January TAB meeting.

**Adjournment:**

Ms. JonesFrancis motioned to adjourn. Ms. Conley moves and it is seconded by Mr. Tilley. The meeting is adjourned at 1:17 pm and the next TAB meeting will be held on January 13, 2016, at the Alvarado Transit Center on the second floor at 11:45 am.