

**Delaware River Port Authority**

**Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes**

**April 8, 2015**

**Attendance:**

NJ – John Boyle, Bob Melikian, Martin Otremsky, John Sandone, Anthony DeSantis, Stephen Benigno, Kathy Venuti, Mike Izzo, Jeff Kessler; Jonathan Latko

PA Michael Rochester, Robert Melikian, Tom Jordan, Tyrone Wesley, Albert Huber

DRPA Staff: Fran O'Brien

Others: Brian Preski, Larry Davis

**Adoption of Minutes from March 11, 2015 meeting**

Minutes of the March Meeting were approved.

**Announcement**

Chairman began by inviting all to the April 9th StandUp4 Transportation the following day in PHL. He asked DRPA if PATCO would be in attendance. Fran O'Brien indicated that DRPA/PATCO would have an informational table at the rally.

Question was asked as to whether the "noise" been identified and remediated on the new cars? Tony DeSantis reports seeing 2 new cars at Ferry Avenue recently during what he presumed was testing. An update was requested.

Another question was asked about the LED signs at the stations currently have a static display. Jeff Kessler asked, until all signs go live or become fully integrated, if we display scheduled departure times on the signs? An update on the status of Wi-Fi and these signs was requested.

**Subcommittee Reports**

**Communications** – Nothing to Report

**Recruitment:** Chairman Boyle asked the status of new member outreach. Asked if the new member Mike Izzo had been scheduled for his interview with the DRPA Audit Committee?

Bob Melikian indicated that there were two (2) Pennsylvania applicants in attendance for the first time. Bob explained that they are welcome to attend three (3) meetings before membership would be considered. Each was asked to introduce himself and say why he was interested in membership.

Robert Melikian stated that there are no new applicants and he would like for DRPA to put out another press release soliciting new members.

Larry Davis introduced himself as a Pennsylvanian and the formerly anonymous "patcowatcher" who is active on social media and who "curates" PATCO customer voices on twitter. He said he got involved with PATCO-tracking a week before **the DATE?** PATCO Franklin Square Station fire. He feels that his work has had a positive impact PATCO's social media practices. He indicated that he has a good relationship with CEO Hanson who has been responsive to his outreach and who provided him with a tour of the PATCO car rehab project in Lindenwold.

Bob Melikian explained that CAC members must agree to sign a non-disclosure document because members may be provided information that has not yet been submitted for the board or the public's review. Bob asked if that would present a problem with Larry's patcowatching activities. Larry indicated this would not be a problem going forward.

Chairman Boyle said Larry Davis's membership would provide the CAC with an outlet for CAC activities.

Brian Preski introduced himself as a life-long Philadelphian, whose interest in the activities on the Delaware peaked during his 9 years as Chairman of the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority where he served and was appointed by Governors Ridge, Rendell and Corbett. He reported on PRPA's record of increased port calls and business during his tenure: successfully spearheading the dredging of the Delaware River for commerce; and the designation of PHL as a US Navy strategic port. He gave his background as follows: a former Philadelphia assistant district attorney, he spent several years in Harrisburg as a chief of staff for the Majority Leader and Speaker of the PA House of Representatives as well serving for a time as acting chief clerk of the House of Representatives. Currently he works for an asphalt company. He said he understands that although DRPA is often in need of road repairs and could potentially be a user of his company's services, he cannot use his CAC role to get DRPA-related business for his company.

Chairman Boyle indicated that Preski's background in government would be an asset to the CAC.

Members discussed how they might address the issue of members who have not attended meetings for some time (naming Darren Johnson and Anthony Leonard). Chairman suggested contacting those members and asking them if they were still interested in staying on CAC and moving forward and declare vacancies, if appropriate.

**Personnel** – Mike Rochester reported that he spoke to GM Rink about meeting with PATCO represented employees. Rink indicated he would speak to the CEO about this. Update requested.

He also asked if there is an upcoming meeting – possibly a joint meeting - of unions that CAC could attend. He said that the committee has intentionally stayed away from FOP meetings. He asked if there had been any resolution of the union's arbitration. Asked about status of raises for non-represented employees. Update on arbitration requested.

**Transit:** - Jon Latko reported that he had received some complaints about the condition of the cars on a recent weekend. Reported trash and evidence that someone had gotten sick. Asked if it was SOP for operators to inspect the cars from the inside after completing their routes. He was under the impression that inspection was from the platform only. Update on our cleaning and inspection SOP requested.

### Bike Ramp

Chairman Boyle updated the members on the recent addition of bike racks at the PATCO stations. He indicated that this was a positive indicator of recent progressive bike policies. He updated the group on the status of *Indego* bike share program which is being launched on April 23rd at Eakins Oval.

Mike Rochester read the group an update on the new bike racks from our DRPA/PATCO e-newsletter Connections which provided info on the new bike racks.

### PATCO Freedom Card

There was then discussion on the future of possible integration of Freedom cards with SEPTA. Update on potential of full integration with regional transit and was requested.

**Finance Committee:** Nothing to report

### Questions for the Board

Questions were raised on the upcoming World Meeting of Families by Martin Otremsky? Who asked how we plan to handle increased traffic and rail passengers. Update requested.

### Old Business:

### New Business

Tyrone Wesley reminded the Chairman that the May meeting in Philadelphia was an opportunity for CAC members to attend a board meeting in PHL. Not sure what was decided on who would attend and who should address the board. Members were encouraged to let Chairman Boyle know who was coming so DRPA's Telete Garrison could be informed to reserve seats.

Adjourn.