

**Delaware River Port Authority**

**Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes**

**February 10, 2016**

**Attendance:**

- NJ** - John Boyle, Anthony DeSantis, Steve Benigno, Michael Izzo, Martin Otremsky, Kathy Venuti
- PA** - Bob Melikian, Tyrone Wesley, Larry Davis
- Other** - Mike Devlin, Kevin Shelly, Marcus Stenson
- DRPA** - John Hanson, Dawn Whiton

**Call to Order**

**Adoption of Minutes from January 13, 2016 Meeting**

Minutes of the January 13, 2016 meeting were approved.

**Report of the DRPA CEO, John Hanson**

John Hanson commented on the outcome of the Blizzard. Only had one train down. Service was not shut down. There is a big difference with our new Director of Equipment and a new program on fixing the traction motors is in place. He also recognized Dan Auletto doing an excellent job on our bridges. Budget is in good shape. Don't anticipate a bridge toll increase until at least 2020.

Mr. Melikian asked as to whether or not DRPA was reimbursed for Pope Visit costs. Mr. Hanson responded, no. Mr. Melikian requested the total costs allocated for the Pope visit. Mr. Hanson stated that he would speak to Jim White and get back to the committee at their next meeting.

Our Bridge Project is on time. Finishing up and doing the punch list items. Mr. DeSantis asked, how many cars are in service to date? Mr. Hanson stated he would get the exact number and report back to the committee. Mr. Otremsky asked if the inductor was still being repaired and Mr. Hanson confirmed that yes, the new cars will have the corrected repair. They are still working on the prior cars.

Mr. Boyle asked about the Bike Ramp and Mr. Hanson advised that all projects are currently on schedule. He believes that the Bike Ramp Project is in the final design stage.

Getting ready to finally turn over the Ferry to the Delaware River Waterfront Corp. We are either doing one of two scenarios. Turning it over for \$1.00 or selling it to them for \$300,000K over 10 years. Since federal monies are involved it may need to be the \$1.00 amount.

Robert Melikian asked about the Gateway Park Project and John Hanson gave an update.

Larry Davis stated that he had some questions from the PATCO Watchers site and he asked about the bike ramp and why it is outside the paid area at Broadway Station. He also asked about the text alert system out and down. Why does DRPA's work and not PATCO's? Mr. Hanson stated he was unaware that a message had not gone out to the subscribers. Mr. Hanson replied that the system was hacked and it hasn't been resolved as to whether it could be again. He assured the members that no subscriber information was compromised. He would have someone work on this matter.

Hover boards are they banned and John Hanson confirmed that they are.

On time status still seems to still be equipment failure on a daily basis. John Hanson stated that there are still some bugs in the new cars and we still have the last couple of older cars. The most recent matter was a door failure. When we run as many cars as we do, there are bound to be issues. Mr. Hanson suggested that they have Robert Traver attend the next meeting and he can give them a more detailed explanation about the equipment. Mr. Davis mentioned that the most recent door failure the busses never showed up. Mr. Hanson explained that there were issues because everyone got off at one station that being Haddonfield and between the busses and police, and the normal heavy traffic, the busses couldn't get through and the traffic was gridlocked. After every incident there is an after effect evaluation and we learned that we should have scattered the passengers to different stations to avoid the mass exodus and gridlock.

GCL expansion line update? Mr. Hanson stated that DRPA is working with NJ Transit to identify a project sponsor and working on an agreement.

Are we allowed to ask what happened to Ben? John Hanson commented on Ben's departure.

Judy Boldurian asked to the committee to enquire about the lost and found hours of operation. John Hanson stated that they are open Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. You may call the number and leave a specific message and someone should be getting back to you within 24 hours.

Martin Otremsky commended the PATCO staff in the handling of when the window blew out. He happened to be on the train when it happened. The train operator kept the passengers in the loop and did a great job. He was very pleased that the train did not go out of service.

Steven Benigno asked about the Ferry transaction. With regard to the contract will there be an Indemnification Clause in there indemnifying DRPA. John Hanson assured that there would be.

John Boyle reported that a bike was vandalized with the wheels smashed and not it's abandoned at 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> station. When will they be removing the bike? Are the bike ramps monitored by cameras? John Hanson will speak to our chief of police to see if we can get a program in place.

The members asked about Kyle Anderson. Mr. Hanson advised that Kyle took a leave of absence from the Authority and will be returning in August. Mike Williams will be filling in for him. The committee asked if Mike Williams can come to the next meeting.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**A. Recruitment** - The Committee welcomed potential new member, Marcus Stenson of New Jersey.

**B. Communications** - Nothing to report.

**C. Personnel** – Mike not here, nothing to report.

**D. Finance** - Kathy Venuti stated that Mr. Gentile mentioned that he would come back to speak to them about a report on the outside counsel fees over the last 5 yrs. The committee has asked for an update and has asked that Mr. Gentile come back perhaps sometime in April.

**E. Old Business/New Business** -

- Annual Report needs to be worked on.
- Subcommittee for the annual report is needed. John Boyle nominates himself on the committee and asked for volunteers. Steve Benigno stated that the report can be put into a small PowerPoint and that this does not need to be an exhaustive process. Perhaps have every committee member make a recommendation to the report. First being “Why are we here?”
- Perhaps a 5:30 subcommittee meeting prior to the next meeting would work.
- A suggestion was made to put an ad in the Inquirer for soliciting members for the CAC and perhaps talk about the reason why the committee was formed perhaps put out a press release as it was done when we first started.
- Perhaps CAC can piggyback for a night meeting in Pennsylvania at the same location as the DRPA meeting.
- A few people still need ID Badges
- Was there ever a response prepared as to why no PATCO Discount. Bob Melikian confirmed that there was a sufficient response given.

**Next CAC Meeting March 9, 2016 at 6 p.m.**

**Next DRPA Meeting March 16, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.**

Meeting adjourned.