

**(Meeting #3 - Oct 7 2014)  
Bus Riders of Saskatoon  
Tues, Oct 7, 2014, 7 PM**

23 of us in attendance during the meetings duration (some arrive late / leave early)

\*\* points to read for minutes review

**Review of previous meeting (#2)**

— We adopted Rusty's Rules (like Robert's Rules but less formal & more basic structure) but with the hopes of getting group consensus for decisions and making sure that folks are heard. That said, voting will still be a mechanism in the group, so we can go forward on decisions even if there isn't consensus

\*\* We initiated a vote at Meeting #2 with whether to align ourselves with the union side of the lockout or remain officially neutral, but most felt that they didn't have enough information to go on. Hence, we organized to bring a rep before us from the City and the Union.

— Note: we agreed upon a 2/3 vote for the adoption of a position w/respect to lockout

\*\* The union local prez, Jim Yarabowski, is here, but City rep is not

— It's noted that many more questions were directed to the City, someone notes that City also probably goes through more of a process to answer before the public, short time frame

— Marianne will keep her phone on and ready to go to speaker if any one from the City calls (they do not do so during our meeting).

\*\* **Jim Yakubowski, ATU Local 615 President**, in on hand to explain the perspective on the lockout and what a group like ours could / should do.

Notes from the talk and questions from the floor are here:

<https://app.box.com/s/n5g6s55b0l45mnxp2wku>

Jim is thanked for his time and appearance, leaves

**\*\* Go-around circle on whether to make an alliance with the union**

— What that could mean,

— each speaker given < 2 minutes to speak

2 photos taken of scribing based on our comments are up here (same folder):

<https://app.box.com/s/n5g6s55b0l45mnxp2wku>

**\*\* Vote taken on position vis a vis union / city,  
on whose side**

=====

**Align with union: 5**

**Stay officially neutral: 16**

**Abstentions : 2**

**\*\* Neutral position is carried by more than 2/3 vote**

**— will be adopted by Bus Riders of Saskatoon**

**\*\* Summary of discussion**

(based on points repeated by more than one person)

- Should be noted that most people in the group are supportive of the drivers and opposed to the City's lockout, agree that transit service is underfunded, mismanaged, inefficient
- Most reasons given for 'neutrality' are strategic reasons (alliance means we are seen as being an arm of the union, already hard to convince others that we are not)
- Overarching concern that riders are not being represented by either City or Union, and if we are a riders group, we must primarily talk about riders (meeting people's expectations of us as a group)
- Also sense that the group needs to be about something larger / beyond the lockout situation — what transit means for city and riders — sense that formal alliance frames us differently
- Created before the lockout, continuing after the lockout

— Finally, noting that this decision is now taking up a lot of time and we could actually be doing actions during the lockout that support better transit (where everyone wins etc)

**Note:** points from our scribing will be posted

### **\*\* Media and Action discussion**

#### **Media:**

- Media is clearly wanting us to have strong talking points and we need to figure those out if we're not siding with union, officially — what ARE we doing?
- Agreed that there will be a strong "media moment" when service returns

#### **\*\* Group is in agreement / consensus that:**

##### **— Media messaging must get across this messaging:**

- "The City Also Locked Out the Riders"
- "We Don't Want to Return to the Status Quo When This is Over"

#### **Action:**

- Request that we correct people - it's not a strike, it's a lockout, because there's a difference - messaging also helps out
- "we are locked out" also gets this idea across
- we aim the calls at the city and not the Union, it is inappropriate to complain to the union, they are representing their members
- and what do we want to do with that

#### **\*\* Some discussion of an action, of a rider's protest of some kind, is also mentioned**

**\*\*** decision is not voted on / taken

#### **Other concerns:**

- People ranting on Facebook, do we want to this to stop
- Concern is noted, group should be encouraged to stay on topic

#### **\*\* Parking Lot (stuff that is tabled)**

**\*\***— Next Meeting (Meeting #4) will be devoted to strategizing actions

**\*\***— Noted that Charlie Clark (Councillor) is chair of the City Transportation Committee

**\*\***— Charlie will be invited to the meeting following Meeting #4

#### **Announcements**

**\*\*** — Jordon Cooper is doing a 7KM walk this morning and has invited Citizens and Councillors to talk about transit together. Please join. See blog post at:

<http://www.jordoncooper.com/2014/10/going-for-a-walk/>

#### **Tasks taken up**

— Nicole and Rob will set up preliminaries of Wordpress website / landing page for us, since people aren't all on Facebook

— please add yourself to task list, report back on tasks next meeting

**Next meeting**

**Sunday at 1PM, Oct 19**

**Meeting location is TBD (to be discussed)**

**Meeting adjourns 9:10 PM**