

MINUTES  
Bus Riders of Saskatoon  
December 4, 2017 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Saskatoon Food Bank

Facilitator: Robert Clipperton

Recorder: Peter Gallén

1. Introductions: Present were Robert Clipperton, Peter Gallén, Stephan Simon, Kyle Foster, Wes Cameron and first-time participant, Jim Wood.
2. Group Norms: Robert read the group norms.
3. Finalization of Agenda: Wes expressed concerns about Transportation Network Companies (Uber), which was inserted into the agenda as item 7, because Wes would have to leave early.
4. Minutes of October 26, 2017 Meeting: Approved unanimously.
5. Financial Report: Robert reported that the bank balance is still \$294.82.
6. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - 6.1 Appointment of Signing Authority: Peter and Robert signed a copy of the approved minutes of October 26, 2017, which Robert will forward to our bank, Affinity Credit Union, so that signing authority can be transferred from Michael Schwandt to Peter Gallén.
  - 6.2 Concerns about Transportation Network Companies (TNCs): Wes notified us that he intends to bring up his concerns at the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation meeting on 5 Dec 2017. A lively discussion ensued, which noted that the relatively low fees that Uber is currently able to charge are the direct result of i) Uber losing money, ii) the drivers earning very low income, and iii) the drivers further subsidizing the fare by deferred vehicle maintenance costs. Consequently, these low fees are unsustainable in the long run and cities would be wise not to rely on TNCs for their transit services. It was also noted that TNCs are private companies that can withdraw their service

any time. We also pointed out that the TNCs, which essentially consist of computer software that for a commission connects a client to a self-employed driver plus transfers the fee between the parties, have a poor record of fulfilling their regulatory responsibilities and consistently refuse to provide ridership and financial information.

## 7. City of Saskatoon Meetings

7.1 Report from Last Meeting: Peter reported that the meeting on November 24, 2017 with Saskatoon Transit was a special meeting with HDRC.

7.2 Report on meeting with HDRC on November 24, 2017: In response to past requests (see previous minutes), seven members from BRS were pleased to meet with Saskatoon Transit plus several members of the City's implementation team and one representative over Skype from HDR Corporation to discuss the proposed Bus Rapid Transit system and new Conventional Network.

7.3 Next Meeting Representatives and Agenda Items: Peter, Kyle and Jim volunteered for the next meeting with Transit, tentatively set for 19 Jan 2018, with Robert as backup. Proposed agenda items include: kudos for improving bus stop at Westgate Plaza; problems with foldable bus seats; difficulty discerning which #6 bus to board at Place Riel; Transit's plans for the years 2018 to 2020 before the BRT and new Conventional Network are expected to go live in 2021; and status of our Safety Project.

8. Active Transportation Advisory Group Report: Our ATAG representative, Stephan, reported that the attendees at the latest ATAG-meeting separated into small groups to discuss traffic safety issues. Concerns were expressed that some recent communications from the City seemed to blame the victims of accidents for failing to take preventative measures. ATAG agreed that all future communications should be free of blame, and instead emphasize that increased traffic safety is everyone's shared responsibility.

## 9. Actions and Action Plans for 2017-2018

9.1 2018 City budget: Robert reported on his presentation to City Council on November 27, 2017. HDRC-project:

- 9.2 As discussed in item 8.2, BRS's involvement in consultations for the new Transit System have already begun with our meeting on November 24, 2017.
  - 9.3 Stakeholder Consultation – December 5, 2017: The people present were encouraged to attend any one of the three Stakeholder Workshops at Place du Jour, 914 – 20<sup>th</sup> Street West; Robert, Peter and Wes indicated interest in attending.
  - 9.4 It was noted that the first consultation for the general public will take place on December 6 @ 5:30-8:00 pm at Place du Jour.
  - 9.5 Fare / schedule review: A review of Fare Structures, Fare Collection Systems and Transit Schedules will be our focus in the new year.
10. Internal Management
    - 10.1 Posting of Minutes: Stephan indicated that he preferred minutes to be submitted to him as Microsoft-Word documents, so that he can make necessary adjustments before posting them as pdf-documents,
    - 10.2 Management of E-mail Account: Not discussed
    - 10.3 The Bus Safety Project: The time may have passed for any meaningful action on this project, but we may want to make an inquiry at the next meeting with Transit.
11. Other business: There was no other business
  12. Date, time and place for next meeting: January 8, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Food Bank.
    - 12.1 Facilitator and Recorder: TBA; Robert will make the booking for the Food Bank meeting space.