

Bus Riders of Saskatoon
June 3, 2020 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference
Minutes

Facilitator: Melissa Recorder: Robert Regrets: Louis, Sandra
Present: Melissa, Robert, Lila, Curt, Jennifer, Scott, Doug, Robert, Jim

1. Introductions and Group Norms (see below); Zoom orientation
2. Finalization of Agenda.
3. Review of minutes of May 12, 2020 Meeting
 - Peter had been omitted from the list of attendees.
 - Approved as amended.
4. Financial Report: Bank balance is \$258.84 – no change
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 5.1 Clinkskill Manor/Sask. Housing – Robert
 - Ray Neale has retired as Manager of the Saskatoon Housing Authority and there does not appear to have been a replacement
 - Jennifer agreed to see if she can find out who is covering for his duties.
 - 5.2 Government of Sask. diversion of federal funding for transit under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)
 - 5.2.1 Robert re: Change.org petition
 - Petition remains on hold while the public's attention is focussed on other issues
 - Peter noted that there may be money in the 'environment' stove-pipe of federal infrastructure money that the City could direct into transit.
 - 5.3 ATU – National Forum on Transit
 - Robert attended this online meeting with others from across the country
 - Objective is to lobby the federal government to provide emergency money to keep urban transit financially viable in the wake of drastically decreased fare revenue and additional costs due to COVID-19

- Peter agreed to be a second BRS representative at future meetings of this group.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Free Transit Edmonton

- E-mail received from this group wanting to lobby transit systems to retain fare free service as systems return to front end loading and fare collection when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted
- Agreed that in Saskatoon BRS is more in favour of working towards ‘free transit for some people to some destinations some of the time’
- Our e-mail response was that although BRS would not be participating in all of this group’s actions, we would like to be kept informed of their efforts and receive their educational/lobbying material.

6.2 Doug Rudolph – AR Consulting

- Doug asked if BRS was comfortable with his new company (offering accessibility consulting) referring to BRS on its website and using BRS as a reference as to Doug’s expertise in this area.
- The group has been most grateful for Doug’s contribution to our understanding of accessibility issues and we would be pleased to serve as a reference.

6.3 Allison Grey, Saskatoon Transit – On Demand pilot

- Peter and Robert participated in a call with Saskatoon Transit regarding BRS participation in a pilot of a future On-Demand transit service.
- Robert, Scott and Melissa expressed interest in participation on June 5th
- Robert will try to recruit some additional volunteers and communicate with Transit

7. City of Saskatoon Meetings

7.1 Report on May 25th meeting

7.1.1 Highlights: Clinkskill Manor, electric bus pilot, On Demand Micro-Pilot, Bus stop Improvements, Market Mall Terminal, Service Resumption

7.2 Agenda / Representatives for Monday June 15th meeting at 2:30 p.m.

- This meeting will be devoted to an update on BRT with Rob Dudiak who is the lead for Transit on this file

- Melissa, Lila, Peter, Doug and Robert expressed interest in attending this meeting

8. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation

8.1 Presentation at a future meeting re: Costing of service enhancements?

- It seems that it would be best to bring this forward after the Civic election in November – perhaps January or February of 2021 to feed into the 2021-2023 budget cycle

8.2 Meeting – June 1, 2020

- Only item related to Transit was an update on future administration reports: “That the Administration report back on how they have worked to strengthen information and communication on notices for digital, phone and paper approaches for changes to bus routes, including engagement with stakeholders.
- This report is expected during the first three months of 2021.

9. Access Transit – Bob Eaton – no report

10 . Facebook Issues

10.1 Masks

10.2 College Drive stops

11. Poverty Reduction Project – Transit Committee

- Colleen Christopherson, the lead on this committee has been in touch and would like to have a conversation with us regarding safety measures (masks) on buses
- Robert, Lila, Melissa, Jennifer expressed interest in participating in this discussion

12. Review of Actions and Action Plans for 2019-2020

12.1 2020 Budget - done

12.2 Fare Review – done for 2019-2020

12.3 Disability Access – (Kneeling Buses) - done

12.4 Meetings with Councillors

12.4.1 Councillor Davies – Report on May 28, 2020 meeting

- A very pleasant and productive meeting with Councillor Davies

was attended by Lila, Robert, Peter, Doug, Bob, Melissa and Curt

12.4.3 Next Councillor?

- Agreed that Robert would set up a meeting with Councillor Block

12.5 Civic Election

12.5.1 LiveableYXE2020 – no developments

- Robert has been in touch with the organizers and they hope to bring people together soon

12.6 Provincial Election

- Melissa will bring concerns regarding cleaning and mask use to NDP Health Critic Vicki Mowat

13. Other Business

13.1 No other business was brought forward

14 . Date & time for next meeting: Wednesday July 8th at 7:00 - Zoom

Group Norms

All people are explicitly welcome and respected in our meetings and we will strive to include and represent the interests and varying perspectives of riders. We appreciate that we are all volunteers and that we are all learning and doing the best we can in our roles. We bring different life experiences and values to the table but what we share is a desire to work for positive change in our transit system. We aim to achieve changes in the short-term while keeping a long-view in mind and agree to engage constructively and respectfully and not just within the group but also with decision-makers, the media and the general public.

In meetings, we agree to keep comments respectful and brief and respect the role of the meeting facilitator(s) who may need to cut us off from time to time to keep the conversation on track and on time. We will avoid tangents and side-bar conversations and speak one at a time. We will do our best to be accountable for what we take on and will try not to let each other down. If we have committed to a task and can't complete it in a timely manner, we agree that we will pass the task to someone else in the group. When we feel someone is not abiding by these norms, we will gently let them know. Repeated violations of the group norms by any member will be brought to the group to discuss.