Bus Riders of Saskatoon

August 12 , 2020 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Minutes

Agenda

Facilitator: Lila Recorder: Robert Regrets: Scott, Jennifer, Bob, Clem

Present: Lila, Robert, Peter, Melissa, Doug, Curt

Guest: Jordyn Warkentin, Poverty Reduction Project / Sask. Public Health Association

1. Introductions and Group Norms (see below), Zoom orientation.

2. Finalization of Agenda.

3. Review of minutes of July 08, 2020 Meeting – Approved as circulated

4. Financial Report: Bank balance is $258.84 – no change

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Government of Sask. diversion of federal transit funding – nothing new

5.2 On-Demand Transit pilot

5.2.1 Debrief of meeting with Pantonium (Robert, Scott)

* Robert read Scott’s written comments
* Interesting use of the service by a group from Seniors’ Housing with positive feedback

6. Correspondence

6.1 Minister McKenna Re: Federal Funding (Peter)

6.2 Clem B. – Masks on Buses

* Letter requesting support of Bus Riders regarding mandatory masking on Transit
* Robert will write a letter to Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager to affirm our support for mandatory masking

6.3 Jeremy R. – Buskatoon.ca

* Jeremy has developed an app. for verifying location of buses in real time
* With his permission we have placed a link to this resource on our website

6.4 Jordyn Warkentin – Sask. Public Health Association

* Jordyn is doing an internship with the SPHA and is working with the Poverty Reduction Project with a focus on affordable and accessible transit in Saskatoon so those with the least resources begin to have increased access to necessary resources through transportation access
* She joined us for our meeting to discuss the results of a survey (posted on our FB page)
* She has examined topics such as the benefits of Transit from both health and environmental perspectives, how to improve accessibility to Transit services for those with limited financial resources, observations on the brief period of fare-free service as part of the Covid-19 restrictions.
* summaries of her work will be posted online

7. City of Saskatoon Meetings

7.1 Report on July 20th meeting

7.1.1 Highlights: Scheduling, physical distancing, masks, service standards, service alert clean-up, Place Riel.

7.2 Agenda / Representatives for Monday August 24th meeting at 2:30 p.m.

7.2.1 Representatives: Peter, Curt, Robert, Lila, Doug, Scott

7.2.2. Possible agenda items: BRT update in regards to bus route / cycle lane separation, mandatory masking, new schedules, scooter accessibility, ventilation on buses, operator use of masks and vinyl curtains.

8. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation

8.1 Meeting – August 10, 2020

8.1.1 Heidi O. re: Fleet accessibility

* Ms. Oxman presented to discuss difficulty boarding all models of buses with her disability scooter
* Transit will be working with Ms. Oxman to resolve the issue

8.1.2 BRT Pilot Station – project was approved at the Committee level.

8.2 Next SPCOT Meeting – September 8, 2020 (Council August 31st)

9. Access Transit – Bob Eaton – no report

10 . Facebook Issues

10.1 Transit App. and Scheduling Issues – information has been compiled and forwarded to transit for comment

10.2 Masks – agreed that Robert will write a letter to Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager, expressing our support for mandatory masking on City buses, taking into account the following points:

* that bus drivers should not be responsible for enforcement
* that an emphasis be on education rather than punitive enforcement
* that provision be made for those whose income levels make mask acquisition difficult
* that exemptions be in place for those who have medical issues that do not allow them to wear face masks

11. Poverty Reduction Project – Transit Committee

11.1 Summaries: Transportation in a poverty elimination context

* see agenda item 6.4

12. National Transit Coalition

12.1 Report on August 4th Meeting – (Peter, Robert)

* Focus of the discussion was on the adequacy of Federal funding for Transit and the willingness of provinces to match these dollars
* Situation is unclear in many provinces (including Saskatchewan) and concern that some provinces have said they will not participate.
* Discussion of strategies to forge community alliances to help pressure governments to adequately fund our transit systems.

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

13.1 2020 Budget - done

13.2 Fare Review – done for 2019-2020

13.3 Disability Access – (Kneeling Buses) – done

13.4 Meetings with Councillors (Robert)

12.4.1 Councillor Donauer

* Meeting has been set up for Monday August 17th at 7:00 pm.

13.5 Civic Election

13.5.1 LiveableYXE2020 (Robert, Melissa)

13.5.1.2 Transit Question

* Bus Riders has committed to formulating a question on Transit that will be part of a survey that LiveableYWE2020 will forward to all candidates
* Robert was delegated to formulate a question taking into account support for BRT, service enhancement, accessibility and affordability

13.5.2 Communication with Candidates

* agreed to invite candidates to post their transit platform on the Bus Riders Facebook page

13.5.3 Endorsements?

* Consensus that Bus Riders will not endorse particular candidates

13.6 Provincial Election

12.6.1 Meetings with MLAs (Bob) – no report

14. Other Business

14.1 No other business was brought forward.

15 . Date & time for next meeting: Wednesday, September 9th, 2020 using 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.