

Bus Riders of Saskatoon
Minutes - February 16 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Curt Recorder: Robert Regrets: Jim, Bob
Present: Lila, Jenn, Sherry, Odin, Scott, Peter

1. Welcome
2. Finalization of Agenda. Addition of 9.4 Governance and Priorities Meeting
Feb. 22, 2022
3. Review of minutes of January 12, 2022 Meeting – no errors or omissions
4. **Date & time for next meeting: Monday March 14th at 7:00 pm**
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 5.1 Liveable YXE – progress is being made – hope for a meeting at the end of March
 - 5.2 Letter to Editor re: Infrastructure – Draft letter was discussed.
 - 5.3 EarthNet – no report
6. Correspondence
 - 6.1 Consultations with Councillors – Two Councillors sent communications to Robert/Peter to get our input on mask mandates on buses
 - 6.2 Rider re: Masking - letter in favour of continued masking
 - 6.3 Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project – Meeting April 5
7. Facebook Issues
 - 7.1 Themes: Service alerts, missing fare boxes, buses passing by stops, accolades to Access drivers, OnDemand, electric buses, snow clearing, mask mandate, problems with Transit App
8. City of Saskatoon Meetings
 - 8.1 Report on January 17th (see website for minutes) and February 14th meetings
 - Peter reported that Rob Dudiak and Liz Hoffman from the City's BRT team were present for an update
 - Pilot station will begin construction in April including shelter, heating, signage and all other components of a BRT station

- no update on costs but noted that big expenses were fibre optic cable for signalization, station construction, software, intersection reconstruction
- Other topics
 - Revamped training the trainer program
 - new vendor for OnDemand will take over in spring which should result in service enhancements

8.2 Next meeting: Monday March 14th @ 2:30 pm

8.2.1 Agenda Items: Dashboard (pending resolution of IT problems) or beginning BRS input on 5 year plan (Peter suggests reading of last 5 year plan – see BRS website on resources)

8.2.2 Attendees: Peter, Curt, Lila, Robert, Scott,
 [Discussion of who should attend these meetings. Agreed that keeping an open invitation to regular attendees is desirable.]

9. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT)

9.1 Meeting: February 7

9.1.1 No Transit related items were on the agenda this month

9.2 Next SPCOT Meeting: Monday, March 7th

9.3 City Council: Special Meeting re: Covid Measures - February 8, 2022

9.4 Governance and Priorities Meeting – Feb. 22, 2022

- Robert directed to send an email to Governance and Priorities making clear that BRS supports retention of mandatory masking with enforcement to the extent possible within current legislation
- Agreed enforcement shouldn't be a duty of drivers
- Concern that masks are not always obviously available on buses
- Think it is a good thing to have security officers on buses from time to time as a matter of course
- Like option of spot checking although 20 hours a day is overkill
- Concern if mask wearing is not enforced particularly on crowded buses when distancing is impossible.

10. Break Out Discussions – Topic: Fare Review – If you could design a new fare structure, what you put in it? (15 minutes)

Topics Discussed: Fare capping, children’s fares, free service on Sundays, optimal price for a bus pass – can park for a month for less than a bus pass at the University, people might be prepared to pay higher fares if service was better

11. Access Transit – Bob/Sydney – no report

12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

12.1 Report on last meeting: January 25, 2022

12.2 Next Meeting: Tuesday February 22, 2022 @ 3:00 pm

Robert reported that they will be focusing on the Ontario election for the next few months and hope to develop strategies and techniques for use in other election campaigns.

13. Ongoing Actions

13.1 Councillor Meeting – Curt will contact Jeffries to arrange a meeting

13.2 MLA Meeting – Bob E. – request sent to Don Morgan but no response received as yet

13.3 Peter – contacted Redekopp MP who is willing to meet – he will set up a meeting

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14. Other Business

14.1 Downtown Entertainment District Advisory Committee –

- felt that someone who can put a transit lens on this would be an asset
- Lila will put her name forward as a representative for women, seniors, a low income person, a downtown resident

14,2 Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project – Meeting Tuesday April 5th

- Lila and Peter expressed interest .

15. Adjournment

