

Bus Riders of Saskatoon

Minutes - October 29, 2023 – 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Zoom Video Conference

Facilitator: Curt

Recorder: Robert

Regrets:

Present: Peter, Cam, Robert, Curt, Lila, Odin, Lorraine, James, Jenn

1. Welcome and Treaty Land Acknowledgement
2. Finalization of Agenda. Add 15.1 Climate Hub.
3. Review of minutes of September 24, 2023 meeting. Minutes approved.
4. Date & time for next meeting. Re-evaluation of usual meeting day of the week. Agreed that we continue to meet on Sundays. **Next meeting Sunday, November 26th at 7:00.**

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Branding, Marketing and Wayfinding – input session September 26th.

- Robert attended this session.
- New logo seems to satisfy our main concerns – that it is both distinctive and visible

5.2 CNIB Town Hall October 10th

- No one from BRS was available to attend this meeting
- Robert has written to Amanda Titman, asking to keep us informed of any outcomes or recommendations from this meeting.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1 No new correspondence has been received.

7. Access Transit – No one was present to report.

7.1 New FB Group

7.2 Access drop-off points at events

7.3 Barriers to acquiring reduced fare passes for SAID recipients

8. Facebook/Website Issues

8.1 Facebook topics since last meeting: Transfers, schedules, late buses (8), Full and crowded buses (5), Safety (7), Rider questions (6), Shelters (4), Drivers (2), Transit PSAs (5), Cleanliness (2), ATU (1), On Demand (1), Rider behaviour (1), Other systems – B.C. (3), BRS posts (10), Misc. (5). = 60 posts – up from 25 last month. Greatest reach 1.1 K.

8.2 Website Content

8.2.1 Contributions from group members?

8.2.1.1 Jenn – Bus Etiquette – completed. Peter will post it.

8.2.1.2 Cam – in progress - comments on 8th Street and 22nd Street frequent service routes and other high traffic areas. Will try to include Lawson Heights.

8.3 General tone of our FB page.

- An administrator reported that the general tone of the page has declined in recent weeks and that she is taking a tougher tone on some of the posts.
- It was noted that people are the way they are because we let things go. Abuse shouldn't be tolerated.
- Noted that some comments just aren't conducive to advocacy.
- She discussed options and asked for suggestions.
 - Suggestions included flagging individual posts without publicly censuring and admonishing people, removing posts involving swearwords and harassing behaviour, posting and pinning a post with rules of behaviour on the page, putting restrictions on chronic offenders ranging from putting them on 'post review' to banning them completely .
- **Consensus.** Add a code of conduct as a pinned post. Put worst offenders on post approval. Could perhaps add a promise to adhere to the rules for new members.

9. City of Saskatoon Meetings

9.1 Next meeting: Monday October 30, 1:30

9.1.1 Agenda: Topics: Systemic service issues – school start, first snowfall, schedule and transfer issues, Concern about warning about bus service on SPCOT agenda, issues tabled from previous meetings.

9.1.2 Attendees: Peter, Robert, Curt, Odin, Cam, regrets Lila, Jim - maybe

[Note: This meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday November 8th at 1:30]

10. Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCOT)

10.1. Regular Meeting - Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

10.1.1 Agenda Item 6.1.2 Amanda Spent – Transit Service for High School Students and presenting on behalf of Bus Riders of Saskatoon – Robert Clipperton

- Video of presentations available to share at meeting.
- Motion from SPCOT: “That the Administration report back outlining Saskatoon Transit’s planning processes and policies related to managing over-capacity buses/bus routes.”

10.1.2 Agenda Item 7.1.1 Saskatoon Transit Support Worker Program

- Darcy Pederson from ATU spoke in support
- Motion from SPCOT: “That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation recommend as part of the budget options process that:
 1. Option 1 – Six Community Support Officers with funding of \$278,600 in 2024 and \$204,000 in 2025 be implemented.
 2. Implementation of the program be aligned with the transition of the Community Support Officers program to the Saskatoon Fire Department.”

3. Saskatoon Transit and Saskatoon Fire report back to Committee and City Council after one year of implementation of the targeted and rotating support workers program for Saskatoon Transit.

10.2 Special Meeting – Tuesday October 10, 2023

[Called to consider items not dealt with on October 3rd)

10.2.1 Agenda Item 5.1.1 Asset Management Plan Update - 2023 – Saskatoon Transit

- Peter noted that there is a 30 minute discussion online that is worth watching.

10.2.2 Agenda Item 5.1.5 Saskatoon Transit 2022 Annual Report

11. City Council Meetings - Council Meeting

11.1 Wednesday, September 27th, 2023

11.1.1 Agenda item 6. Question Period: Questions posed by Councillors Loewen and Gough on lack of capacity of Transit to service existing schedules.

11.2 Wednesday October 25, 2023

11.2.1 Agenda Item 8.4.3 Neighbourhood Land Development Fund – Allocation of Profits - Recommendation

- “That \$3.9 million in profits from the Neighbourhood Land Development Fund be allocated to the Bus Rapid Transit Funding Plan.”

12. Keep Transit Moving Coalition (Robert)

12.1 Meetings:

- Tuesday September 26 - cancelled
- Tuesday October 24th – rescheduled from October 31st.
- Date of next meeting TBD

13. Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Project (SPRP) – (Lila)

13.1 Full Day Event – Monday September 25, 2023

- This was a general discussion on poverty in Saskatoon.
- It was attended by about 125 people from many organizations including Saskatoon Transit

13.2 Follow Up Meeting – Monday October 16th, 2023

- This was a smaller meeting to discuss the 12 Bold Ideas to Eliminate Poverty in Saskatoon
- Non-transit issues including access to food including school meals, quality and availability of housing, need for public washrooms open 24-7, more public Wifi
- Transit related issues – Public wifi on Transit; free fares for children and youth, students, seniors, people in poverty; access to devices to assure access to Transit information; extended hours and more frequent service, information on how to handle bicycles on Transit, safety on buses
- Lila will continue to be the SPRP representative to Transit
- Lila can send out the reports to anyone who is interested.

14. Ongoing Actions

14.1 Councillor Meetings: None recommended.

14.2 Budget Input – November 28, 29, 30th – Our issues are Child fares, Transit Support Officers, New Bus Purchases, Fare Freeze

- Agreed that we need to remind councillors and provide them with details as sometimes they forget or don't have the time to keep up to date
- We need to have some people at City Hall during the budget discussions.
- Good to keep our individual ward councillors informed

15. Other Business

15.1 Climate Hub: Peter and Curt are involved with this group which meets weekly. They want to be an ally to groups like ours. They have a letter to present to City Hall and would like other organizations to co-sign the letter. Agreed that BRS as a group endorses this letter and that we will

supply our logo. Members are encouraged to write to Council in time to be included in the budget package for Council. They are also encouraged to write to personal Ward Councillors.

15.2 It was noted that the shelter at Preston Avenue at 8th Street was vandalized about a month ago and was reported to Transit at that time. The panel is still broken and there is broken glass scattered around. It was noted that drivers are asked to report damage to shelters as soon as they see it so Transit is aware of the situation. This is likely a budget/resource issue.

15.3 Thanks to Lorraine for representing ATU at this meeting and for her input. She noted that there is a weekly Labour/Management committee meeting to discuss issues.

16. Adjournment