



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Final

Transit and Parking Commission

*Raymond DeHahn
John Heckenlively
Deborah Ganaway
Dustan Balkcom
Mark Kowbel*

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

4:30 PM

City Hall, Room 303

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M.

PRESENT: 5 - Raymond DeHahn, John Heckenlively, Deborah Ganaway, Dustan Balkcom and Mark Kowbel

Also Present: Michael Maierle, Willie McDonald, Mark Yehlen, John Magee

Approval of Minutes for the March 16, 2016 Meeting

The minutes of the March 6, 2016 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

1. BUS General Manager's Operations Report

General Manager Willie McDonald reported that March ridership was down 12% compared to last year measured in both linked and unlinked trips. Fixed route revenue was down only 4% over the same period. Paratransit ridership revenue was down 14%.

Looking at the first quarter of 2016 compared to 2015, fixed-route revenue was down 3% and paratransit was down 25%. Ridership was down 7% and 13% for fixed-route and paratransit respectively.

Decreasing ridership has been the trend across the state with 10 of 12 agencies reporting declines. Eight out of 10 agencies report declines in paratransit.

Kowbel asked if it was possible to survey riders. McDonald said he would see if the university might be interested in helping. Maierle mentioned that our marketing effort was getting underway and we will be distributing questionnaires.

Maintenance expenses ran a little over budget in the first quarter. Due to technology such as particulate fuel filters, some buses require more preventive maintenance.

A recent OSHA complaint will likely be resolved quickly. McDonald collected data on existing bus seats for drivers. Some of the cushions appear somewhat worn and will be replaced, but the seats themselves meet specifications and are working properly. The complainant suffered a back injury off the job.

First Transit awarded Racine an award for no lost time accidents in 2015.

Commission members congratulated the transit agency's managers and employees and suggested informing the Common Council.

Replacing buses starting in 2017 is on our radar screen. We've been communicating with the State of Wisconsin on a possible grant opportunity.

2. [0342-16](#)

Subject: Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to sign a 2016 contract for providing public transit service to the Racine Unified School District after review by the City Attorney. (Res No. 0163-16)

Recommendation of the Transit and Parking Commission on 04-20-16: That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to enter into a 2016 contract with the Racine Unified School District to provide public transit service to the School District.

Fiscal Note: There will be a 0.5% increase in revenue for the transit system.

Transit and Parking System Manager Michael Maierle presented a recommendation made to Racine Unified School District calling for a 0.5% increase in payments. The increase is based on an extensive analysis of cost and cost per rider. The last three years saw compounding annual increases of 6.7%. As a result, Racine can now provide the service without losing money. Maierle suggested alternatives to consider that would increase the price moderately in future years on a cost basis.

Motion made by Heckenlively, seconded by Kowbel to recommend a contract with the School District with a 0.5% increase for 2016. Passed unanimously.

Recommended For Approval

3. **Communication from the Transit and Parking System Manager requesting review of initial recommendations for a 2016 contract for public transit service to the Village of Caledonia, Village of Mt. Pleasant, Village of Sturtevant and the Town of Yorkville. Contracts will be brought to the next meeting for authorization.**

Maierle presented information only on contracts for public transit service with all four partner municipalities. Initial communications with the municipalities have focused on an increase of 5.23% based on distributing the actual local cost share among the municipalities proportional to vehicle revenue hours. Federally required complementary paratransit, known in Racine as DART, is a very large cost component of these services because the routes outside of the city limits expand the service area and eligibility for this service for elderly and handicapped persons.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

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