

Delaware River Port Authority

Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

July 9, 2014

Attendance:

NJ – John Boyle, Judy Boldurian, Kathy Venuti, Anthony DeSantis, Jonathan Latko
PA - Michael Rochester, Robert Melikian, Tom Jordan, Tyronne Wesley, John Sandone
DRPA Staff: John Hanson, Dawn Whiton
Other: Martin Otremsky (prospective member)

Adoption of Minutes from June 12, 2014 meeting

Minutes of the May Meeting were approved.

Report of the Vice Chairman

No Report of the Vice-Chairman

Presentation of the DRPA CEO

John Hanson, DRPA CEO, stated that as of right now Corporate Communications was being handled by Fran O'Brien with Michael Conallen, Deputy CEO and himself ultimately handling since Tim Ireland's resignation and no firm on Board. David Lattore was referred to our agency as a temporary position and since the Board wanted someone asap, he was brought on. Whomever was chosen, they would not be allowed to participate in the RFP proposals. Due to this stipulation, there were not many responses.

Mr. Hanson read Ms. O'Brien's letter she prepared to the CAC:

I would be happy to meet with CAC at the next meeting and will provide them with the following info:

Plan for outreach. Of course I favor the Uncle Sam "We Need You" pointing in frightening style as our graphic:

- *Send email blasts to the designated leaders of the community, neighbor, and business groups with whom we have established contact. Alert them of the openings on the CAC and attach a link to our webpage and the application.*
- *DRPA Government Relations staff ask local elected officials to add the news of our search to their frequent constituent newsletters.*
- *Send an e-alert to all subscribers to our DRPA and PATCO e-alert services.*
- *Tweet the search info to PATCO and DRPA followers*
- *Post on Facebook – maybe try a video posting*
- *Post search signs/posters at PATCO station*
- *Ask Comcast and the City of Philadelphia to provide a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on their stations.*

Robert Melikian stated that these were all great ideas and perhaps a few can be implemented one at a time so that there will not be an overwhelming response.

Mr. Hanson also gave a brief summary on the history of the Economic Development and made mention of his attendance at the PA Senate Transportation Hearing. Mr. Hanson also answered Mr. DeSantis' inquiry on the appointments of Board Members from NJ and PA Governors.

Jonathan Latko asked about the restrictions posted on the WWB and Mr. Hanson described the Biennial Inspections and the damage/erosion caused by the water and the salt from previous years. He corrected the misinterpretation and advised that the restrictions were for only for the wide load vehicles which needed permits.

Jonathan Latko asked why the Ferry was not running during the fireworks. Mr. Hanson stated that we have a contract with the Ferry managers and it is not in their contract to run service on the holiday. The Ferry Manager had provided numbers from past year's experience that it did not warrant a significant change in the numbers to justify staying open past the 6:00 p.m. end time. Mr. Hanson proceeded to read of the numbers from years, 2001, 2012 and 2013. Mr. Hanson made mention that meetings have started already to decide the future of the ferry and what the options would be for next year. John Boyle mentioned his positive experience on the Ferry.

Robert Melikian asked if there would be consultants coming in to take a look at the big picture of operations, procedures and a better way to be efficient and Mr. Hanson made mention of his Lean Six Sigma experience and his implementation at the DRPA. He also mentioned just a few of challenges DRPA is facing i.e. no raises in 6 years, a rise in employees retiring, and inability to bring in good qualified people at the current salary. A need for a compensation study would enable to get the talent needed and keep existing employees from seeking other employment.

Jonathan Latko asked if the BFB Track Rehab Project was ahead of schedule? Mr. Hanson confirmed that it looks like the DRPA is on schedule and perhaps ahead in most areas but painting will be cutting it close.

Anthony DeSantis asked about the status of the rail cars and Mr. Hanson gave him a brief update. Also suggested the Chief Engineer may want to come to the next meeting to give a more precise description of the issues affecting the acceptance of the cars into revenue service.

Mr. Hanson thanked the CAC Members for letting him speak and also gave his cell phone number out to each of the members in case they needed to get a hold of him in an emergency

Subcommittee Reports

- A. Recruitment:** Martin Otremsky was in attendance as a potential new candidate
- B. Communications** – No report of the Communications Committee.
- C. Personnel** – No report of the Personnel Committee.
- D. Transit/PATCO:** Committee was satisfied with Mr. Hanson's updates and the only other matter which was discussed was the use of a universal switch of use at Franklin Square. In order to have a single track operation and reduce wear and tear on the cars instead of using 11th street. The space is already there. Perhaps a Tiger Grant may be obtained so that it would be 100% funded by the federal government. Mr. DeSantis will bring this matter up at DRPA's next Board Meeting. They will email Chief Engineer, Michael Venuto prior to in order to have an informed response prepared.

- E. Finance:** Kathy Venuti requested 1 hard copy of the prior month's Board Packet to be given to the CAC Committee on Committee Day. She also requested that an iPad be provided just like the laptop for any CAC member to use at the time of the meeting. Ms. Venuti also asked for 1 hard copy of the DRPA Minutes to be provided.

Old Business

Anthony DeSantis made mention that he attended the last DRPA Meeting and publically requested recruitment help from DRPA.

Letter from Fran O'Brien covered the recruitment ideas and asked that Fran O'Brien attend the September meeting and they would also like the Inspector General to attend the October meeting.

New Business

Ferry Service was discussed.

Open Forum

Reminders of the next DRPA Board Meeting being on August 20th @ 6:00 p.m. in Collingswood, NJ.

Discussions were made on the CAC dates and everyone agreed to keep the 10 meetings per year.

Adjourn.