

Metro Riders' Advisory Council

May 7, 2014 Minutes

I. Call to Order:

Ms. Walker called the May 2014 meeting of the Metro Riders' Advisory Council to order at 6:33 p.m.

Members present:

Carol Carter Walker, Chair, At-Large
Barbara Hermanson, Virginia Vice Chair, City of Alexandria
Karen Lynch, Maryland Vice Chair, Prince George's County
Candice Walsh, District of Columbia Vice Chair
Ben Ball, District of Columbia
Frank DeBernardo, Prince George's County
Bob Fogel, Montgomery County
Katherine Kortum, Montgomery County
Aldea Meary-Miller, Arlington County
Pat Sheehan, At-Large/Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair
Lorraine Silva, Arlington County
Deborah Titus, Fairfax County
Daniel Turk, District of Columbia
Fred Walker, Fairfax County
Dexter Williams, District of Columbia
James Wright, Prince George's County
Mary Ann Zimmerman, Montgomery County

Members not present:

Thomas Draths, At-Large
José Morales, District of Columbia

II. Public Comment Period:

Ms. Walker opened the floor for comments from members of the public. There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Agenda:

Without objection, the agenda was approved as presented.

IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes:

The Council was not provided with the April meeting minutes to review and therefore took no action.

V. Quarterly Meeting with Board Executive Committee; Follow-up Meeting with Chief of Staff and AGM Customer Service, Communications and Marketing; Accessibility Advisory Committee Follow-up:

Ms. Walker provided the Council with an overview of the quarterly meeting between the Council's leadership and the Board's Executive Committee. She noted that Board members were interested in the Council's working on the following topics, which dovetailed with what the Council itself is interested in addressing in the coming year:

- Improved bus service in the 16th Street corridor;
- Fare simplification
- Silver Line start-up and its impact on riders.

Ms. Hermanson added that Metro staff said that they would be open to having RAC members join them at the various outreach events conducted by Metro.

Ms. Walker also noted that the Board members were very open to the RAC working more closely with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on issues, especially the issue of improving bus stop accessibility. She also told the Council members that staff members were committed to following up on the Council's requests.

VI. Committee Reports:

Ms. Walker called for reports from the Council's committees.

Budget and Finance Committee:

No report.

Customer Service Committee:

In Mr. Draths' absence, Ms. Hermanson provided this report. She said that the group has had discussions over email about its priorities, and they all were in agreement. She said that the group will be meeting later in the month and that members will be provided with more information when a date is finalized.

Planning, Programs and Projects:

Mr. Turk said that this committee has decided to narrow its initial focus to two subjects – the effects of the opening of the Silver Line on Metro riders and 16th Street bus service.

Safety and Security:

Ms. Silva said that there has been no interest from members in participating in this committee.

Governance Committee:

This report was deferred until later in the meeting.

VII. Approval of Council Ground Rules:

Ms. Walker asked for approval of the proposed Council ground rules for 2014.

Ms. Kortum moved approval. This motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh. After discussion, the proposed ground rules were approved without objection.

VIII. Community Meetings, Reports, Etc.

Mr. Turk provided the Council with an overview of the Coalition for Smarter Growth-sponsored meeting he and other Council members attended regarding improving bus service on 16th Street. He said that the RAC needs to figure out how it can play a role as riders representatives in advancing this project.

Ms. Zimmerman told the Committee that she attended a Silver Spring Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting that had presentations on DDOT's light rail/streetcar plans and Montgomery County's plans for priority bus lanes.

Ms. Walker reported that she attended the AAC's monthly meeting on the previous Wednesday and took the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Sheehan on the AAC's recent successes.

Report by Governance Committee:

Ms. Lynch provided a recap of the Governance Committee's teleconference meeting, at which it set its priorities for the coming year. She said that the Committee's priorities for 2014 are (in order):

1. Revising the RAC's Bylaws;
2. Establishing Council ground rules and meeting protocols;
3. Exploring the idea of having a member of the RAC serve on the AAC;
4. Creating a template for Council resolutions.

IX. Membership/RAC Support:

Ms. Walker provided the Council with an update on the recruitment for the RAC Staff Coordinator position. She also noted that Rob Pappas, a Council member from Fairfax County, had resigned his position due to work obligations.

Ms. Walker then turned the floor over to Mr. Wright, who discussed his recent absences from the Council and asked the group to refrain from requesting the Board to terminate his membership due to his absences. Ms. Walker then moved to table this matter. Without objection, this matter was tabled by the Council.

Ms. Walker then asked for comments from members of the public regarding any of the items on the agenda that had been discussed. There were no comments.

Ms. Walker also asked that if members have agenda items for the June RAC meeting, that they get those to her by May 19th.

X. Adjournment:

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. to allow members to meet in their respective committees.