

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

Draft Minutes

November 14, 2012

1. Self-Introductions of Members

Members present: Janet Abelson; Randall Glock; Jan (Janice) Armigo-Brown; Peter Crockwell; Mary Fowler; Jim Gonsalves; Don Queen; Hale Zukas; Gerry Newell; Herb Hastings; David Jackson, Jane Lewis; Carmen Rivera-Hendrickson; Katrina McCurdy; Alan Smith;

Members not present: Roland Wong; Larry Bunn

Guests of the Public: AnnaMae Stanley; Clarence Fischer; Michelle Rousey; Janice Dispo (Steno Captioner);

Staff: Laura Timothy

Speaker(s), Staff and Directors: Robert Raburn; Crystal Raine

2. Public Comments

AnnaMae Stanley told members of a PBS special called "Going Blind," a documentary film that increases public awareness of sight loss and low vision issues affecting the lives of people around the world.

David Jackson stated that this film could probably be found on the PBS website, www.pbs.org.

3. Approval of Minutes of October 25, 2012 Meeting

No opposition to Herb Hastings' motion to approve minutes of the October 25, 2012 meeting, (second by Janet Abelson). Motion carries unanimously.

4. Members' Attendance Requirements

Member Carmen Rivera-Hendrickson:

David Jackson moved that the BATF makes a recommendation to the BART Board to terminate the membership of Carmen Rivera-Hendrickson, (second by Gerry Newell). Motion passes with one abstention by Herb Hastings and one opposition by Jane Lewis.

Member Don Queen:

No motion was made.

Member Linda Drattell:

Linda Drattell sent in her resignation in an e-mail and will no longer be a member.

5. Capital Improvement Priority List

[No action taken at this time.]

A consolidated list was distributed to members for them to review over the next couple of months. This item will be brought back at the January meeting for

discussion. Randall Glock and Alan Smith will be working on putting together a set of instructions on how to go about prioritizing this list, and they will be sending it out to members.

6. BATF Goal Setting for 2013

A draft of BATF Goals for 2013 were distributed to members for them to review and give input on before the December meeting. This item will be brought back in the December meeting agenda.

7. Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

Oakland Airport Connector Project:

The next meeting has been set for Thursday, January 10th, 2013, where the ad-hoc committee will discuss topics such as braille, station announcements, vehicle announcements, and the policy for wheelchair assistance. The ad-hoc committee has also requested for a second elevator panel.

Stair Tread Color Contrast Project:

Lighting has been improved throughout some of the stations.

David Jackson, Don Queen, and Gerry Newell will be working on making recommendations regarding path of travel to and from stairs.

The next ad-hoc committee meeting has been tentatively set for February 13th, 2013.

Warm Springs Project

Randall Glock showed members a video covering the tour of Warm Springs. The Warm Springs Extension is scheduled to open in late 2015.

eBART Project:

The ad-hoc committee has asked Bob Franklin to make arrangements for them to meet with staff. Members are to expect an update in the January 2013 meeting.

General Disabilities Awareness Project:

Public comments:

AnnaMae Stanley would like for more disabilities to be mentioned, especially those that are not easily visible.

Clarence Fischer suggested that police officers first ask and clarify what language the person speaks, and added that officers perhaps carry a card showing words in the different languages where that someone can then identify the language they speak, in the event they do not understand English.

Regarding the idea of tracing an "X" on the back of someone without sight, he suggested that the officer then shows the person their badge immediately after.

He also suggested that RTC (Regional Transit Connection Discount Card) holders be notified by mail stating something to the effect of “in the event of an emergency, an ‘X’ may be drawn on your back in order for law enforcement to identify themselves.”

Gerry Newell assured everyone that the ad-hoc committee is doing their best to include as much information as they can.

Crystal Raine stated that the input phase of this project is now closed, but added that people are still welcome to share any input with Lauren Sugayan. Members can e-mail Randall Glock, who will then forward it on to Lauren Sugayan.

8. Travel Reimbursement

Randall Glock has forwarded any correspondence he has received from members regarding their issues with travel reimbursements on to staff.

Hale mentioned that his BATF-issued Clipper card is registered to someone named Bernadette Lopez. Staff will work with Hale off-line.

Some members reported that they are not receiving reimbursement in a timely manner. Others reported not receiving reimbursement at all.

9. Chairperson Announcements

[No chairperson announcements.]

10. Staff Announcements

[No staff announcements.]

11. Member Announcements

David Jackson told members of the bicycle coalition meeting set to occur on November 15th, 2012.

Carmen Rivera-Hendrickson expressed that she is upset with the committee, stating that she was not informed that she was no longer the vice chair, that she has not been asked to continue, and that she feels harassed in being told to turn in her business cards.

Randall Glock commented that the recommendation was made by the task force as a whole, and not by him alone. He also shared that he did not chair that part of the meeting because he understood that that item was going to be very emotional for everyone. He reminded everyone that the election was held because the term of office was up. He then stated that members are not privy to any communications that took place between Carmen and staff.

He went on to say that the topic of members' attendance came up for discussion for four or five meetings in a row.

Michelle Rousey said that Carmen's computer has been down numerous times, and she has had issues with retrieving e-mails. She suggested that the BATF to review and amend the bylaws, and urged members to recall the vote to recommend Carmen's termination of membership.

Peter Crockwell added that Carmen is welcome to reapply at any time and can still attend the meetings. He suggested agendaizing the topic of amending the bylaws.

Don Queen thanked everyone for their consideration of him in this matter. He added that Carmen should still attend the meetings as her input is very important.

Mary Fowler hopes that Carmen will continue to attend the meetings and is in favor of changing the bylaws.

Jim Gonsalves was hoping to be able to discuss the idea of having alternates. He added that he does not think that it is fair because Carmen's reason for not attending the meetings were due to her medical issues.

Gerry Newell stated that it was not an easy decision as the bylaws state what they state, and she did miss more than four meetings this year. He added that he hopes she will return because her input is very valuable.

Herb Hastings said that although he abstained from voting, he does not really agree with what happened. He believes that Carmen's medical issues were out of her control and that she should at least be given the option to choose whether she would like to continue on as a member or not.

Randall reminded everyone that his one absence this year is not counted as an excused absence. It still counts as an absence, just like anyone else.

Laura Timothy stated that the purpose of the bylaws is to provide the BATF with guidelines to take into consideration. She added that it is of Bob Franklin's understanding that Carmen notified Ike of each of her absences.

Janice Armigo-Brown said that the BATF is a unique group of people who should have a unique set of bylaws. She added that perhaps the bylaws should be reviewed and possibly amended.

David Jackson stated that if it is the interest of the BATF to change the bylaws, then they should take action soon because there are many other issues on the table and many other topics to cover.

Jane Lewis said that she voted against the recommendation to the board to terminate Carmen's membership and feels that her absences should be excused.

Katrina McCurdy stated that this serves as a good reminder for her not to miss meetings.

Peter Crockwell said that since Carmen called in her absences, it changes everything, and that the BATF made a mistake in voting to recommend the termination of her membership.

Michelle Rousey said that task force should have had all the information before they voted, that Carmen had called in each absence with a medical excuse.

Don Queen answered that the bylaws specifically exclude medical excuses. There is no provision in the bylaws for excused absences.

Director Raburn suggested that the BATF hold a discussion during the January meeting. He suggested forming an ad-hoc committee to come up with solutions, at which time, Carmen handed Director Raburn her BATF business cards and ID, and she and Michelle left the meeting.

Randall Glock made a formal request to hold this discussion at the January meeting. He also requested that staff from BART's legal department be present, so as to better facilitate the discussion.

Janice Armigo-Brown stated that she does not think that members were even informed that the bylaws can be amended.

12. Future Agenda Topics

- Next Meeting Dates
 - Wednesday, December 12, 2012 (300 Lakeside Dr., Oakland)
 - Thursday, January 24, 2013 (Regular Time and Location)

- Richmond Garage Tour
 - Wednesday, December 5, 2012, 1:15 p.m. (Richmond Station Agent Booth)

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the next specially scheduled meeting of **Wednesday, December 12, 2012, 2:30 p.m.**