

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

A quorum was attained and Commissioner Kanoyton called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Commissioners in attendance:

Gaylene Kanoyton, Hampton
Councilwoman Andria McClellan, Norfolk
Amelia Ross-Hammond, Virginia Beach
Mayor John Rowe, Portsmouth
August Bullock, Newport News

Hampton Roads Transit staff in attendance:

Gene Cavasos, Director of Marketing & Communication
Joe Dillard, Organizational Advancement Officer
William Harrell, President & CEO
John Powell, Telecommunications Specialist
Dr. Brian Smith Chief of Staff

Additional Attendees:

Johnna Cossaboon, Advantus Strategies
The Honorable Thelma Drake, Norfolk
Delceno Miles, The Miles Agency
Sherri Neil, City of Portsmouth
Carl Jackson, City of Portsmouth
David Westscott, City of Chesapeake
Ron Jordan, Advantus Strategies
Janice Taylor, League of Women Voters South H.R

Approval of August 2020 Meeting Minutes

The July meeting minutes were approved.

State Session Update

Chairwoman Kanoyton recognized Mr. Dillard to bring an update on the State Special Session update. Mr. Dillard stated he attended the opening of the special session and handed it off to Mr. Jordan to go into further detail of the focus of this special session. It is good to note that the shortfall due to COVID-19 was not as large as predicted which put the Commonwealth in a good position moving forward to address financial issues. Most committee meetings are being held virtually. Recordation Tax issue is being addressed from Delegates in Richmond and we are tracking.

Dr. Smith weighed in on the Capital Funding that has not been approved via state funding due to COVID-19 responses. With flexibility in operations support coming with DRPT funding with cuts to some capital funding. More details will be coming soon.

Federal COVID-19 Policy Update

Mr. Dillard moved to Federal legislation and started the conversation around the HEROES Act funding for hazard pay. Hampton Roads Transit continues to lobby in support all Hazard Pay consideration for essential employees. Mr. Dillard also acknowledged that Senator Mitt Romney has introduced the Patriots Pay Plan which also provided hazard pay funding. Though its drastically different from the language included in the HEROES Act, it does provide additional funding to those essential employees whom work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Dillard also stated that the United States Senate will be taking up all legislation concerning COVID-19 relief after Labor day. The Senate failed to come to a solution during the month of August but conversations were hopeful to a September solution.

2021 Legislative Concepts

Mr. Dillard and Mr. Jordan begin to discuss topics/ideas to present to the ELAC committee during the September meeting as the Draft Agenda for the upcoming year.

Free Rides on Election Day

Mr. Dillard stated he would be working to get a production impact cost of offering free rides on election day. This committee will vote on a recommendation at the September meeting as well.

Virtual Town Hall

Mr. Dillard called on Ms. Miles to give a recap of the Virtual Town Hall in which Mr. Harrell was on live with Wavy's Kara Dixon. Ms. Miles stated the first Facebook town hall was a success and we are looking forward to moving the conversation forward.

New Member

Chairwoman Kanoyton recognized the new board member appointed to ELAC, August Bullock who represents Newport News as a Governor Appointee.

Ms. Taylor inquired about HRT working with other organizations in getting rides to the polls. Mr. Dillard asked to work with Ms. Taylor offline to achieve some of these partnership

Mr. Jackson inquired about Census ads inside the bus that each city paid for. Mr. Dillard followed up with staff on this issue and informed Mr. Jackson that HRT did run the ads. Mr. Dillard will again work with staff to see what can be done about promotion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.