



External Legislative Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday, May 18, 2022
1:30 PM – Virtual Meeting

Commissioners in Attendance:

Gaylene Kanoyton, Chair, ELAC
Commissioner Andria McClellan, Norfolk
Commissioner August Bullock, Newport News
Commissioner Amelia Ross-Hammond, Virginia Beach
Commissioner Shelly Simonds, Delegate-Virginia General Assembly
Carl Jackson, (Alternate) City of Portsmouth

Attendees:

Janice Taylor, League of Woman Voters
Ed Reed, Two Capitols Consulting
Maddy Busse

HRT Staff:

Brian Smith, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Gene Cavasos, Director of Marketing and Communications
Noelle Pinkard, Organizational Advancement Officer
Jennifer Dove,
Marie Arnt, Public Outreach Coordinator
John Powell, Technology

Meeting commenced at 1:30 pm with a call to order by Commissioner Gaylene Kanoyton, Chair

Chair Kanoyton asked for motion to approve minutes from April 20, 2022 ELAC meeting. Commissioner Bullock made the motion; seconded by Commissioner Simonds. Minutes approved by committee.

Agenda Items

Federal/State Update – Noelle Pinkard

State budget is still being worked on and there is no official news on when the General Assembly will reconvene. Delegate Simonds reported that the General Assembly may be meeting again on June 1st to discuss.

On the federal side – we have been working with the congressional delegation on the fiscal year 2023 appropriations process and we submitted a request to Congressman Scott, Congresswoman Luria and both Senators for \$2.4 million to assist us with buying more



paratransit vehicles to replace our aging fleet and expand it. On the house side, each representative only had 15 requests total that they could submit so we were unable to get ours submitted. It was recommended that we communicate and work with our Senators since they have no limits as to appropriations they can submit. Noelle noted that HRT staff have been submitting letters, emailing and calling their staff.

Marketing Update – Gene Cavasos

Gene noted that the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) will be hosting their annual meeting in June. HRT will be winning an award for a video that was created/submitted for the VTA Unsung Hero Award.

We had the video ready to show, but had some complications with audio. We will send out to ELAC members with meeting information.

Recruitment – Job Fairs are on the Peninsula – one at HRT offices in Hampton and on June 4th – there will be a recruitment fair at Patrick Henry Mall.

Procurement Fair – update – Jennifer Dove

Announce that Procurement Fair will be held on June 29th at Military Circle Mall from 1-4 PM. A committee has been put together with the assistance of Marie Arnt, Tiffany McClain, Janice Taylor, Noelle Pinkard and Sonya Luther, Director HRT Procurement.

Gathering all materials together to invite all vendors to attend and small businesses owners to come to the Procurement Fair. Flyers are being drafted for these invitations – once they are done, Jennifer will send to Commission Kanoyton for review.

The Procurement Fair will invite people to attend and registration will be through Eventbrite. Information will also be sent to ELAC members to share with people they want to invite.

Commissioner also asked Gene about advertising this fair and to make sure we have media coverage announcing this event.

Commissioner McClelland asked that they can get out to city staff so they can also spread the information about this event.

Old or New Business

Commissioner Jackson – congratulate staff on the “Am I Clean” campaign-getting some good traction and positive feedback.



The upcoming events in Portsmouth and Norfolk will draw large crowds during the Memorial Day weekend. Is HRT doing any sort of promotion to let people know about what public transit is available to help them get to these events.

There have been several internal meetings to plan for these events so we will have extended and enhanced service on all modes of transit. We will also have a 3-day pass weekend available through TicketLeap for people to use. Additional HRT staff and security will be out there for these 3 days.

August Bullock – was asking about the Student Freedom Pass and when staff is getting out there to issue these passes for high school students. Gene noted that we have dates already set up for next year, but we do need to get more staff to assist with this program.

HRT will be participating in the Juneteeth Parade that will be held in Newport News. We will have a bus there with the 757 Express logo since the first portion of this enhanced service will be on the Peninsula. Also VIA is looking to have one of the vehicles for the Micro Transit program that will start soon.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 pm