



Access Advisory Committee

to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

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AACT Executive Board Meeting

June 27, 2012

Opening:

Jim White, Interim Chair (IC), called the meeting to order; he then requested a moment of silence in memory of Philip Beaulieu, the AACT Chair, who recently passed away.

IC White read the agenda and asked members and attendees to introduce themselves.

Executive Board Attendees: Jim White, Mary Ann Murray, Ian Perrault, Rick Morin

Absent: Beverly Ann Rock (sick leave)

Other Attendees: Jim Oliver and Tyler Terrisi

Issues Discussed:

The AACT Bylaws Regarding Replacement of Officers

The AACT members consulted with the AACT Bylaws and IC White read the following sections.

Article IV. Board of Directors

Section 6. Replacement of Officers

a) If the chair becomes vacant, the Vice-Chairperson shall become interim

chairperson until such time as an interim election or the annual election fills the chair. When the vice-chairperson assumes the duties of the Chairperson, no vacancy is created in the Vice-Chairperson's position. Upon election of a new Chair, the Interim-Chair will return to their vacated position of Vice-Chair for the remainder, if any, of their two-year term. Time spent as Interim-Chair will be considered as part of their two-year term as Vice-Chair.

b) If any other elected office becomes vacant the Chairperson, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint an interim officer from among the voting members of the AACT until such time as the vacancy is filled by an interim election or the annual election. If elected, they will be eligible to run again for two consecutive full terms of their own.

Article VI. Elections

Section 2. Interim Elections

Interim elections may be called at any time upon a 2/3 (two-thirds) majority vote of those present and eligible to vote and must be passed at two consecutive meetings. At the time that the interim election is approved (after the second vote) nominations will open and will remain open up until the time set for the interim election. Any officer or board member elected in the interim election

will serve until the next regularly scheduled election.

Section 3. Voting

C. Members Eligible to Hold Office

1) In order to run for positions of Secretary/Clerk and at-large board member, candidates must be eligible voting members for at least six (6) months prior to the date of election.

2) In order to run for position of Vice Chair, candidates must be eligible voting members for at least one (1) year prior to the date of election.

3) In order to run for position of Chair, candidates must be eligible voting members for at least *one (1) year* prior to the date of election.

The Board had no further discussion and made no decision on the topic.

Communication

- IC White attended a meeting with the Acting MBTA General Manager on June 11th
- There is a lack of communication between MBTA and AACT
- The MBTA informs other organizations on policy decisions before it informs AACT

- The Acting GM Davis apologized for the miscommunication and offered an open door policy
- There will be a meeting to establish better communication
- A letter addressed to the MBTA Board of Directors on June 6 has not been responded to. According to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) any letters sent to the MBTA the General Manager has ten days to return a written acknowledgement
- IC White asked that he be informed of the delivery date of the new vehicles for THE RIDE
- Acting GM Davis asked that AACT meet with the new SWA Assistant General Manager for System-Wide Accessibility to start a line of communication

AACT/MOU

- There is a lack of opportunity for AACT to have input on policy decisions
- The MBTA is not complying with the MOU
- Acting GM Davis, at the June 11, 2012 meeting, was urged to follow the spirit of the MOU
- OTA has violated the MOU by not letting the AACT Chair vote in the selection of THE RIDE In-Person Eligibility Assessment Service vendor. IC White stated Phil should have spoken up
- IC White continues to wait for Mike Hulak of the Office for Transportation Access to give him copies of THE RIDE contract for

Greater Lynn Senior Service and the Joint Venture

AACT's Representative Communication

- AACT's representative for THE RIDE In-Person Eligibility Assessment Service vendor did not bring information back
- The representative for AACT did not share any information from Rider Oversight Committee (ROC) meetings

Information

- IC White plans to have 100 percent transparency in his leadership
- IC White is reviewing the contract for THE RIDE In-Person Eligibility Assessment Service vendor and does not plan to challenge the document
- IC White will now represent AACT at ROC meetings
- The MBTA is developing a taxi subsidy program and is in consultation with the City of Boston

Other Concerns

- Board members discussed sharing their fare increase letters with the 530 Executive Commission
- IC White is concerned that THE RIDE In-Person Eligibility Assessment Service staff is unable to correctly identify people who may have hidden disabilities

- There is an on-going issue at the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) meeting relating to accessibility on a bike path that is clearly not accessible to everyone, especially persons with wheeled mobility devices
- Distribution of MBTA flyers for July 1st fare increase did not arrive to subscribers in a timely manner

Actions

- AACT members will be reminded that at monthly meetings, personal complaints will not be addressed. General or system-wide issues will be heard
- Staff will check on member voting status for ROC
- Executive Board approved a letter to MBTA Operations Chief regarding AACT members' concerns regarding the subway system.
- Board members discussed the University of Wisconsin's "Train-the-Trainer" Program for the safety of THE RIDE consumers. They agree that all drivers should be trained in this program
- IC White will contact M. Lambert for future meetings

Possible Future Actions

- AACT should have a representative to attend MBTA Finance Committee meetings
- A recommendation was made that the AACT Board establish a subcommittee to address THE RIDE In-Person Eligibility Assessment Service issues

Adjournment

Executive Board Meeting will meet on July 25, 2012 in Conference Rooms 2 and 3