

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2022

Gunnison County Commissioners Chamber

A. INTRODUCTION

Roland Mason called the meeting to order at 8:06 am

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer (via ZOOM), Boe Freeburn, Jason MacMillan, Liz Smith, Roland Mason

Also present: Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Kent Myers, Bill Tomcich (ZOOM), Jeff Moffett, Jon Gally, Rick Lamport, John Norton, Danny Bartelli, and community members

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Approval of August 12, 2022 meeting minutes

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Air program reports
- 2) Bus program reports

It was noted that Janet Farmer was allowed to attend via Zoom since she is being impacted by ongoing COVID-19 issues.

Boe Freeburn ***moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.*** Liz Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

F. OLD BUSINESS

3) Airport Update - Rick Lamport

Rick Lamport reported that the terminal construction is progressing. The east side of the parking lot is not open yet but will be once the roadway in the front has been paved. They do not have an official opening day scheduled yet, but the board will be informed of this once they do. A food service RFQ will be solicited soon.

4) Tourism Association Report - John Norton

John Norton reported that lodging properties have raised their rates significantly, the drive market declined, air market was very strong; consequently, lodging and other revenues are solid. Texas and the southeast are the focus of TAPP's marketing efforts. Rick Lamport added that the private airport was also much busier this summer. He also stated that the airport was

the busiest he had seen yet. It was reported that the rental car companies have been struggling with their fleet. Kent Myers reported that summer airport service was up about 30%, not including JSX. We don't know what the fares were this summer because we had no guarantees. John Norton shared that CBMR will report at the end of the month on what the EPIC pass sales look like for the winter season. Because of staffing shortages in housekeeping, in particular, many resort communities charge higher nightly rates.

5) Bus service update - Scott Truex and Jon Galle

Truex reported that August ridership was up 41% year over year. The RTA carried over 18,000 passengers in August. The 7:40 am CB South bus that services the school-aged children has been overcrowded, and the RTA is paying to back the buses up with a van so as not to leave anyone behind. The Winter driver update will happen at the next RTA meeting. Winter bus service begins November 23rd.

6) Update on Bus Purchase - Scott Truex

The two CNG buses have been ordered and will arrive by February 2023. We are still waiting on the grant contract for the Congressionally Directed Spending (formerly knowns as earmarks) awarded a year ago. Scott is working with CDOT on fast-tracking the grant contract.

7) Air Command Report - Scott Truex

All major Air Command topics will be discussed further at this meeting.

8) 2022 summer air service - Kent Myers and Bill Tomcich

Kent Myers reported that summer ended strong with high load factors for United Denver service. The Houston service, however, had load factors of 40%. Bill Tomcich reported fares were high earlier this summer and peaked in May, but fare structures relaxed as the summer progressed.

9) Airport Surveys - Kent Myers

No update at this time. There will be a formal presentation at the November meeting.

10) 2022-2023 Winter Air Service - Bill Tomcich

The CRJ700 that Skywest has been flying for United for the past year and a half, will most likely be swapped with the E-175, but the FAA has not approved this new aircraft for both runways. Kent Myers reported that both United and American contracts have been signed. Pacing from a load factor standpoint is doing very well, including Houston. However, DEN on United is not as strong as it used to be due to reduced seats. DFW is higher than last year, but there has been a seat reduction. American has it in their schedule to be able to switch out an Airbus 319 with two CRJ-700s out of different flight banks. JSX ran a 90% load factor and loaded their Dallas service this winter. The airport memorandum of understanding (MOU) with JSX still needs to be signed.

11) Bus Storage Facility Construction - Scott Truex & Leia Morrison

Scott Truex reported that we are currently waiting on the state inspector, who has delayed progress. The building should be shipped in early October.

12) Fading West Housing Purchase - Scott Truex

Scott Truex reported that there have been some issues ensuring that RTA funds are secured. The expense is budgeted for 2023. There will be an update at a later RTA meeting.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Scout Walton, a Skyland resident, wanted to reiterate that consistent air service is vital to our communities vitality.

Jennifer Barvitsky, a Gunnison resident, was in attendance to thank the board of directors for bringing in the JSX service. She stated that she would love to see increased JSX service, and she hopes to have the opportunity to fly it in the future. She thanked the board for this addition to the community.

Chad Zummach, a Gunnison resident and vice president of the Gunnison Bank & Trust Company, came to support the additional JSX service and sees it as a huge economic benefit to the valley. He feels that there has also been a positive effect on small businesses in the valley.

Mike Dawson, President of Cattlemen's Days and Gunnison business owner, reiterated the support for JSX. He shared that airfare pricing affects local charities like Cattlemen's Days, and the increased competition within air service helps lower these fare costs.

H. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

None.

New Business

1) Deed Restriction to be put in place by Margaret Levy on Solstice Condominiums, Unit G prior to purchase by the GVRTA – Scott Truex

Scott Truex reported that the title company will sign and record the Margot Levy Deed restriction. The Town of Crested Butte will hold the deed restriction. Scott will email this out to the board once it is complete.

2) Resolution Number 2, Series 2022 – A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF THE GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY – Solstice Condominiums, Unit G – Scott Truex – Liz Smith ***moved to adopt Resolution Number 2, Series 2022.*** Jason MacMillan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) Authorization of the Board Chair to sign a Master Lease Agreement with AEX, Inc. in order to allow AEX, Inc. to lease Solstice Condominiums, Unit G to their employees providing services for the GVRTA – Scott Truex

Boe Freeman ***moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the Master Lease Agreement as presented.*** Jason MacMillan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4) Renewal of Contract with Social Firekeeper, LLC for the services of Leia Morrison during 2023 and 2024 – Leia Morrison & Scott Truex

Liz Smith ***moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the contract with Social Firekeeper, LLC. as presented.*** Boe Freeburn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5) Renewal of a contract with Airplanners, LLC to provide air service consulting in 2023 and 2024 – Kent Myers, Bill Tomcich, & Scott Truex

Kent Myers announced to the board that he is retiring in December. After discussion, Liz Smith ***moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the contract with Airplanners, LLC. as presented.*** Jason MacMillan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6) GVRTA Draft 2023 Budget – Scott Truex

Scott Truex reported on the major highlights in the 2023 Draft budget. Danny Bartelli presented to the board to better explain these maintenance facility requests. Scott Truex reported that summer flights are budgeted at \$700,000.

7) 2023 – 2027 DRAFT GVRTA Five-year Financial Plan – Scott Truex –

Scott Truex highlighted the 2027 draft GVRTA five-year financial plan.

8) Discussion regarding a possible contract with JSX to provide air service between Austin and Gunnison during the winter of 2022/23 – Kent Myers and Bill Tomcich

Kent reported that JSX is asking for a subsidy for the Austin service, not the Dallas service. An executive session was requested to discuss proprietary information.

9) Executive session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing a strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) for the purpose of conferring with staff and consultants regarding a possible contract with JSX to provide air service between Austin and Gunnison during the winter of 2022/23 – Roland Mason

At this point Janet Farmer moved and Liz Smith seconded a ***motion that this meeting of Board of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority adjourn and, upon affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, reconvene in executive session for the sole purpose of Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators as authorized by CRS 24-6-402(4)(e) for the purpose of discussing negotiations with JSX for possible winter service.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Roland Mason stated the following: “This Executive Session is not open to the public and action may not be taken.

For the record, I am the presiding officer; Roland Mason. It is Friday, September 16, 2022 and the time is 9:52 a.m. Present at this Executive Session are the RTA board members in attendance and the following persons: Kent Myers, Bill Tomcich, Jeff Moffett, Scott Truex and Leia Morrison. If, at any point in the Executive Session, any participant believes the discussion is going outside the proper scope of the Executive Session, please interrupt the discussion and make an objection for the record.”

The board moved into executive session at 9:52 a.m.

The executive session was concluded at 10:20 a.m.

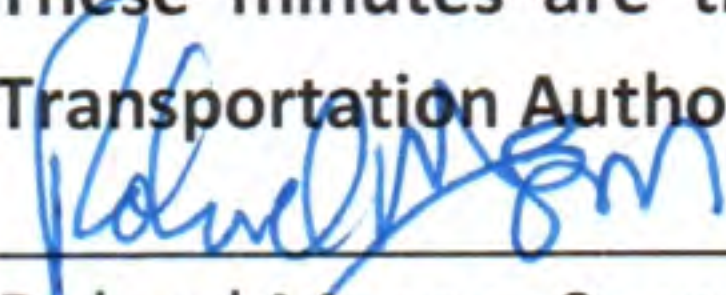
Roland Mason stated that “For the record, if any person who participated in the Executive Session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into Executive Session occurred during the Executive Session or that any improper action occurred during the Executive Session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record.” No concerns were stated.

10) Potential authorization of the Board Chair to sign a contract with JSX to provide air service between Austin and Gunnison during the winter of 2022/23 – Kent Myers and Bill Tomcich

Janet Farmer ***moved to authorize the board chair sign a contract with JSX air for an amount of \$120,000, which will come out of the 2022 budget and includes JSX providing 48 round trips between Austin and Gunnison with the amount to be prorated if less than 48 trips are flown and includes JSX and TAPP marketing the flights and authorization is contingent upon there being a signed MOU contract between JSX and the airport for the winter season.*** Jason MacMillan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 am

These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on November 4, 2022.

  
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Roland Mason, Secretary

