

Portland Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 26, 2018, 3:30-5:00 p.m., City Hall

Members in Attendance: Owen Ronchelli, Chair; David Brandt, Vice Chair; Kara Boden; Michael Cannarella; Sorin Garber; Susan Pearce; Cora Potter; Zoe Presson; Erik Wilson; Bill Bagnall

Staff in Attendance: Dan Bower, Andrew Plambeck
Others in Attendance: Raymond Becich, Stephen Weber

1. Meeting Called to Order:

Ronchelli called the meeting to Order.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Becich asked about being short a couple cars most of this week, and whether that is a result of old cars or other factors. Bower replied that there were several random factors this week. Mr. Becich asked about whether the new cars will be able to have the operator's door open. Bower replied that the door will have to be shut, but operators can open a window to interact with passengers.

Mr. Weber reported that he had his fare checked this morning but that the officer did not have the mobile device yet. Bower replied that the Streetcar has been waiting on the mobile fare-checking devices for six months and he still isn't sure when they will arrive. Mr. Weber asked about how often cars get their wheels trued. Bower replied that it happens as needed.

3. New Staff Introduction

Bower introduced new Public Affairs Manager Andrew Plambeck.

4. Project Updates

Vehicle Procurement: City Council approved the procurement of new cars with a 5-0 vote. Commissioner Fritz especially sang the praises of the Portland Streetcar. The contract with Brookville is not yet signed due to some final details. The City of Seattle has put their expansion project on a hiatus, which puts PSI back a bit in being able to buy Seattle's used cars. If Seattle doesn't come through, used cars from Washington, D.C., may be an option. The group discussed City Council's support for Streetcar procurement.

Northwest Streetcar Expansion: Bower explained that the project continues to advance. The group had submitted a letter of support to City Council for one-time funding of \$370,000, along with letters from a number of property owners, The Street Trust and TriMet. The Mayor's proposed budget will come out on Monday. The group discussed the current route plan, connections to the Central Eastside and the baseball stadium proposal.

Business Access and Transit Lane: Bower said the BAT lane project was ready to go, but ODOT is closing ramps onto I-84 this summer, which means the BAT Lane will wait until the end of that project later this summer.

5. Community Streetcar Coalition Streetcar Summit

Ronchelli provided an overview of the Streetcar Summit. It was a great coalition of different cities in different stages of development or operation. Great presentations of getting projects moving and systems up and running. Toured the maintenance facility for the New Orleans Streetcar, which runs almost all historic vehicles, where they build almost all of their parts on-site through a machine shop, a carpentry shop and more. The group discussed the state of streetcar systems nationally in the context of bus rapid transit, higher construction costs and the conversation around autonomous vehicles.

Ronchelli noted that the group had reached quorum and asked for approval of the minutes from February. The minutes from February 2018 were approved (Garber moved, Pearce seconded).

5. 2018 Streetcar Mobile Music Fest

Plambeck gave an update on the 2018 Streetcar Mobile Music Fest, which will happen from 1-4pm on July 22 in conjunction with the Green Loop Sunday Parkways and PDX Pop Now music festival. Bands will play on A Loop trains beginning at the PSU Urban Center and start wrapping up around Naito and Harrison. The group discussed some favorite acts from previous years and ideas for other bands to recruit to play this year.

6. Other Business

Brandt explained that the CAC is trying to catch up on membership recruitment, and that he will be sending an email to everyone about where they are in their membership terms. Some members will be ending their terms at the end of June and will be able to reapply. The group discussed the staggering of terms and the process for reapplying.

Bagnall asked about the crashed rail at NW 10th and Couch that hasn't been fixed. Bower replied that the City didn't have an on-call contract to do cement work, and he will look into an update on getting it fixed.

Bagnall also asked about the tarps hung over the artistic shelter near the Moda Center. Bower answered that the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) owns that structure and is looking into whether it could serve more as a functional shelter and keep people dry if they added glass to it.

Bagnall reported that he has heard grumbling about the totem poles along the routes look dirty and aren't being cleaned. Bower said he reached out to RACC two days ago and RACC agreed to clean them on a regular basis.

Mr. Weber reported that the NextBus sign at NW 22nd and Lovejoy is still not working. Bower replied that a solar panel has been installed and it should be working now.

Mr. Becich asked about how the time gets set on the cars that have clock displays on them. Bower replied that he would look into making sure the time is right on those.

Garber asked whether the group might be able to add a section for future agenda items to the end of meeting agendas as a look ahead to what's coming up. Plambeck answered yes, he can put together a sort of "agenda build" to keep track of upcoming topics.

The next meeting for the Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee will be Thursday, May 17, 2018, 3:30pm-5:00pm at Portland City Hall, Pettygrove Room.