



Greater Portland Board of Directors

Thursday: May 23, 2024:

Meeting Minutes:

Member:	Municipality:	Role:	Status:
Ed Suslovic	Portland	President	Present
Hope Cahan	Falmouth	Vice President	Present
Paul Bradbury	Portland	Treasurer	Present
John Thompson	Westbrook	Secretary	Present
Merrill Barter	Falmouth	Member	Absent
Ryan Leighton	Brunswick	Member	Present
Jeff Levine	Portland	Member	Present
Michael Shaughnessy	Westbrook	Member	Absent
Pious Ali	Portland	Member	Absent
Julie Dubovsky	Yarmouth	Member	Present
Prosper Lohomboli	Westbrook	Member	Absent
Bill Rixon	Freeport	Member	Absent
Roberto Rodriguez	Portland	Member	Present
Ephrem Paraschak	Gorham	Member	Absent
Tom Poirier	Gorham	Member	Absent

Staff Present:	Identified Members of the Public:
Glenn Fenton – Chief Transportation Officer, Interim Executive Director Debbie Fitzpatrick – Accounting Manager	Mariann Killian – Portland Resident Charessa Kantara – Portland Resident Lisa Mauderella – Portland Resident Eamonn Dundon – Portland Chamber of Commerce

I. With a Quorum in Place, the Meeting was Called to Order by: Ed Suslovic at: 4:25 pm

II. Public Forum:

Mariann Killian, Portland Resident, few remarks, four bus stops at eastern promenade service were removed last year. August 2023 the ridership committee and the board of directors, determined that the stops will affect the speed, traffic, etc. of the area. From Congress St to Munjoy Hill, all the way down Eastern Prom, she’s asking to have the board follow through with this commitment to evaluate the change of the four stops removed and see whether the ridership has suffered, none of this has happened. This has made their lives very difficult to get around, as Regional Transportation Program is difficult to schedule and less reliable. Those who live in this East End community need the right to transportation as does everyone else in

Portland. Visitors and people who work at the building need this transportation all the way up to Congress St to get a bus, and all the way back again.

Charessa Kantara, Portland Resident, there are plenty of other streets that we could use other than Atlantic, including the fact there's no parking on one side of the street at certain hours and seasons. From Portland house to where the four stops are, they're far more than a quarter mile, and very hard to navigate to a safe stop, especially for the senior community. They say Ridership segment is lowest in that part of the route when the elderly population in the area need to be able to use the bus.

Lisa Mauderella, Portland Resident, when the survey was taken, it was said that not many people were taking the bus. She questions when the survey was taken, because a lot of students take the bus and it was late summer when there are less students to have correct information. The survey needs to be taken more often, there are a lot of people in that area and they need to be able to get around, especially with parking. The complaint that Charessa had about the driver's not wanting to go down the street, she understands that, she can walk home, but we can't cancel the whole route for a few bad snow days.

Ed requests for this to be brought up on the Ridership Committee in tentatively June or July. We will contact the public speakers so they can speak at the Committee meeting to be able to revisit this.

III. Approval of April 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

John Thompson made a motion to approve, Jeff Levine seconded. After a roll call of the members present, the minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Glenn Fenton leads item 4, Executive Director's Report.

V. Executive Director Search Update:

Ed Suslovic leads item 5 Executive Director Search Update.

VI. Potential South Portland Merger:

Ed Suslovic leads Item 6 Potential South Portland Merger. The board asks for all the slides for the South Portland presentation, it is agreed upon. Eamonn Dundon, Portland Chamber of Commerce, was present during the presentation and thought that it was a great presentation. He is in support of the merger.

VII. Future Agenda Items:

- Agency Strategic Planning
- Collective Bargaining Agreement Renewal
- PACTS Initiatives and Reforms (Ongoing) – Board requests for update next meeting
- Employee Policy Manual Update
- Executive Director Search Process

VIII. Upcoming Meetings:

- Finance Committee – June 5, 2024 at 4:00 pm
- Executive Committee – June 12, 2024 at 3:30 pm
- Ridership Committee – June 19, 2023 at 3:30 pm
- Board of Directors – June 27, 2024 at 4:00 pm

IX. Adjournment: Hope Cahan moves, Ryan Leighton seconds, Ed Suslovic adjourns meeting at: 5:08 pm.