



2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119

New Orleans Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

10:00 AM

RTA Board Room

2. Roll Call

Present: Chairman Mark Raymond, Commissioner Fred Neal, Vice-Chairman Art Walton, Commissioner Timothy Coulon, Commissioner Joseph Ewell, Commissioner Maria DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Timolyn Sams

Absent: Commissioner Sunni LeBeouf

3. Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Coulon moved, and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to approve the Meeting Minutes from November 28, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coulon, seconded by Commissioner DeFrancesch and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf

[Board of Commissioner Meeting - November 28, 2023]

[23-210](#)

4. Reports

A. RTA Chairman's Report

Commissioner Raymond stated that at the Business Meeting the RTA honored 3 employees of the year and the employee of the month need to transition to this same forum.

B. Operations & Administration Committee Chairman's Report

Commissioner Neal stated that at the Operations and Administration Meeting a presentation was given on RTA's Communications and Marketing Plan.

C. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

No Report.

D. Jefferson Parish Report

No Report.

E. RTA General Counsel's Report

No Report.

5. Selection of Official Journal

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt The Advocate as the Official Journal. Resolution 23-083 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Neal, seconded by Commissioner Sams and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf

[Selection of Official Journal]

[23-211](#)

Enactment No: 23-083

6. Election of Officers

A. Chairperson

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to nominate Mark Raymond as Chairman of the Board. The motion was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Chairman Raymond, seconded by Commissioner Coulon and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf

B. Vice Chairperson

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to nominate Art Walton as Vice Chairperson of the Board. The motion was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Chairman Raymond, seconded by Commissioner Ewell and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal,
Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon,
Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and
Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf

C. Committee Assignments

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to approve the Committee Assignments. The Committee Assignments stayed the same and the motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Neal, seconded by Commissioner DeFrancesch and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman
Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell,
Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf

7. RTA Chief Executive Officer's Report

Lona Hankins reported the following employees of the year:

Dwane Tillis - Operator

Harold Parker - Maintenance

Floyd Hurts - Administrative

Commissioner DeFrancesch thanked the employees for their service.

8. RTA Chief Financial Officer's Report

Gizelle Banks reported on the Financial Officer's Report. This report can be found in the PowerPoint dated December 12, 203 under the RTA's Chief Financial Officer's Report.

[October 2023 Financials]

[23-212](#)

9. CY 2024 Operating & Capital Budget Report

Gizelle Banks reported on the CY2024 Operating & Capital Budget Report. This report can be found in the PowerPoint dated December 12, 2023, under the RTA's CY2024 Operating & Capital Budget Report.

In response to Commissioner DeFrancesch, Gizelle Banks stated that the Bus Shelters are 100% Local Funding and was included in the Capital Budget.

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adopt the CY2024

Operating & Capital Budget. Resolution 23-095 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ewell, seconded by Commissioner DeFrancesch and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf

RTA CY2024 Operating and Capital Budget

[23-200](#)

Enactment No: 23-098

10. Operations Update

Chris Clark reported on the Operation Update. This report can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation dated December 12, 2023, under the Operations Update.

11. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Coulon, seconded by Commissioner Neal and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf

Amendment to the Drug and Alcohol Policy (HC23)

[23-175](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Amendment to the Drug and Alcohol Policy (HC23). Resolution No. 23-085 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-085

Boardroom and Conference Room Use Policy (GEN5)

[23-196](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Boardroom and Conference Room Use Policy (GEN5). Resolution 23-086 was adopted unanimously.

Enactment No: 23-086

12. Procurements

A. Authorizations:

Licensing Agreement with Mignon Faget

[23-179](#)

Commissioner Neal stated that a memo was sent to the Commissioners

addressing all the Commissioners outstanding issues.

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the Licensing Agreement with Mignon Faget. Resolution No. 23-087 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sams, seconded by Commissioner Neal and adopted as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal,
Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon,
Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and
Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-087

Purchase of Ford Paratransit Vans [23-190](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adopt the Purchase of Ford Paratransit Vehicles. Resolution No. 23-088 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coulon, seconded by Commissioner DeFrancesch and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal,
Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon,
Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and
Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-088

Purchase of Cab and Chassis Ford F-350 Trucks [23-198](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adopt the Purchase of Cab and Chassis Ford F-350 Trucks. Resolution No. 23-089 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coulon, seconded by Commissioner DeFrancesch and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal,
Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon,
Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and
Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf

Enactment No: 23-089

Contract Award for Human Resource Services

[23-199](#)

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adopt the Contract Award for Human Resource Services. Resolution No. 23-090 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ewell, seconded by Commissioner DeFrancesch and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-090

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) Between the State of Louisiana (State) and the Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

[23-201](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the CEA Between the State of Louisiana (State) and the Regional Transit Authority (RTA). Resolution No. 23-091 was adopted unanimously.

This Resolution was adopted.

Enactment No: 23-091

B. Amendments:

Napoleon Facility Rehabilitation Amendment to CDW Services Contract (Builder's Risk Insurance)

[23-181](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to adopt the amendment for the Napoleon Facility Rehabilitation Amendment to CDW Services Contract (Builder's Risk Insurance). Resolution No. 23-092 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coulon, seconded by Commissioner Neal and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-092

Napoleon Facility Rehabilitation Amendment Request to CDW Services Contract (Lead Paint Abatement)

[23-182](#)

In response to Commissioner Walton, Lona Hankins reported that during the abatement an assumption was made on how much lead would be found in this project and more lead was found than what was allotted, and all lead was removed.

Lona Hankins reported that a Real Estate Agent will be hired to help the RTA figure out what would be the best use for the building.

Commissioner Ewell moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to adopt the Napoleon Facility Rehabilitation Amendment Request to CDW Services Contract (Lead Paint Abatement). Resolution No. 23-093 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ewell, seconded by Commissioner Sams and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-093

Napoleon Facility Rehabilitation Amendment Request to Landmark Consulting Contract

[23-183](#)

Sundiata Haley stated that Landmark has been the contractor on record since the beginning of the project and this project should be finished by the end of the year and through each administration the use of the building has changed, and Landmark has delivered plans for each change.

Commissioner Ewell stated that change orders for this project has added up to \$540,000 and staff still do not know what they are going to do with the building.

Lona Hankins reported that the RTA responsibility was to make the building warm, safe, and dry.

In response to Commissioner DeFrancesch, Sundiata Haley stated that the work initially started before Hurricane Katrina and the original contract was \$2.2M and now the contract is \$5.3M and Landmark has been the contractor since the beginning.

Commissioner Neal stated that the Board should focus on what should be done with the Napoleon Facility.

Commissioner Raymond stated that he would like to see this project move forward.

Commissioner Walton stated that this building is an asset to the RTA.

Commissioner Ewell stated that this building does not have a purpose and the RTA will spend more money trying to figure out what to do with the building.

Commissioner DeFrancesch stated that she doesn't want this building to turn into a bottomless pit.

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to adopt the Napoleon Facility Rehabilitation Amendment Request to Landmark Consulting Contract. Resolution No. 23-091 was adopted after 5 yeas 2 abstain and 1 absent.

A motion was made by Commissioner Neal, seconded by Vice-Chairman Walton and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-094

Janitorial Contract Extension [23-188](#)

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Lona Hankins stated that while attending the APTA Annual Conference, Gizelle Banks got the necessary documents needed to help with bid solicitations.

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Coulon seconded to adopt the Janitorial Contract Extension. Resolution No. 23-095 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Walton, seconded by Commissioner Coulon and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-095

Clever Devices Maintenance Agreement Renewal [23-192](#)

Commissioner Sams moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adopt the Clever Devices Maintenance Agreement Renewal. Resolution No. 23-096 was adopted unanimously.

This Resolution was adopted.

Enactment No: 23-096

Canon Printer Support Contract Renewal [23-193](#)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Ewell seconded to adopt the Canon Printer Support Contract Renewal. Resolution No. 23-097 was adopted unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coulon, seconded by Commissioner Ewell and adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf
Enactment No: 23-097

13. New Business (UNANIMOUS VOTE REQUIRED TO CONSIDER)

None

14. Audience Questions and Comments

Alan Drake - Due to the cut-backs in bus service the operators should start collecting a matrix to see if passengers are standing more than 7 minutes on a bus, if so, the RTA will start to loss ridership and the second matrix is to see how many people are refused service because the buses are crowded. He also stated that the RTA should move from Schedule Service to Modified Headway Service on the St. Claude and St. Charles routes.

Jackson Kimbrel - Ferry Service is a vital service for the passengers in Algiers and limiting the service hours will affect many passengers.

Jim Goodman - He thought that the Ferry Budget was good for FY2024. The reduction in the ferry hours would affect a lot of working people and school kids and business in Algiers will be effected.

Leigh D'Angelo - Is a ferry rider and her husband takes the ferry to work every day. The new business in Algiers will suffer with the ferry cut-backs.

David Bruce - He is a veteran and many people in his neighborhood uses the ferry to get to

and from work and doctor's appointment and by cutting the ferry hours people will not be able to get where they need to go.

Kory Dupree - He stated that the service is bad, and the operators are getting mentally and physically abused. A bus line that usually have 3-4 buses on the line will be reduced to 1 bus and the wait time will be an hour and half and the buses are still late and the passengers are still complaining. When the new service reduction is implemented will the RTA have the adequate buses needed to meet the time schedule? Has anyone asked other agencies for buses? Staff need to be more creative, than just cutting service.

Kory Dupree stated that some operators still have not received their differential pay.

Commissioner DeFrancesch stated that it was unfair for the operators to be attacked by passengers.

In response to DeFrancesch, Kory Dupree stated that all passengers are frustrated with the service.

Brenda Holmes - Why has the #80 Bus Route stop been removed from Chef Menteur by the Daiquiri Shop and the passengers need this bus stop back. The #80 Bus Route need to be extended to the main library. They are issues with the passengers and the operators, and this particular operator was driving the bus very crazy and was not letting the passengers off at their designated bus stops.

Mitch Guidry - Has 42 years of transit experience and was the Director of Scheduling and during his time the RTA had 70 bus routes. The ridership before Katrina was 34M and after Katrina staff build up ridership to 20M and now the RTA has 10M riders. When New Links was implemented with 99 buses the RTA needed a total of 120 vehicles and currently the RTA are 50 buses down and don't have the 99 buses needed to run the current service and the RTA is currently only running 72 buses.

Mitch Guidry stated that the system needs to be saved and put back on track and the RTA is only collecting 60% of the data from the fareboxes and the current bus routes are too long and have a lot of duplicates in service.

In response to Commissioner Coulon, Mitch Guidry stated that the RTA has a lot of duplication in service and the RTA now has hubs. The only hub that the RTA had was on Canal Street. All the buses need to go to Canal Street and turn around and go back out. Staff need to collect the data from the GFI Fareboxes. The fareboxes gives you data to where the seniors are riding, where the passes are being used, and where the passengers are using transfers. The APC only gives you on and off counts. The system needs to be redesigned.

Daren Martin - He lives in Algiers and enjoys riding the ferry. Many of his neighbors ride the ferry and the cutback will impact their ability to make money because they will have no other way to get to work.

Shirani Jayasunya - Ride passed out passenger's surveys. The Paratransit dispatch was not

communicating with the operators.

Commissioner Raymond stated that the RTA was seeking ferry funding from the City of New Orleans.

15. Executive Session (2/3RDS VOTE TO Consider)

Commissioner Coulon moved and Commissioner Neal seconded to approve to go into Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Sams seconded to approve to come out of Executive Session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coulon, seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Neal, Vice-Chairman Walton, Commissioner Coulon, Commissioner Ewell, Commissioner DeFrancesch, and Commissioner Sams

Absent: Commissioner LeBeouf

Personnel Matters

16. Adjournment

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner DeFrancesch seconded to adjourn the Board of Commissioners Meeting of December 12, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.