

One Boro Minutes, Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:30 pm
Virtual Committee Meeting

Voting Members Present: April Schueths, Chair, Stacy Smallwood, Vice-Chair, Jacek Lubecki, Secretary, Julie Pickens, Treasurer, Annie Hills, Janice Cawthorn, Suzanne Shurling, Barb King, Que`Andra Campbell, Johnny Gamble, Freddie Hagan; Voting Members Absent: Nandi Marshall

Ex-Officio Members Present: Jesse Hartlett, Julie Chance, Jerry Bradley; Ex-Officio Members Absent: Marcus Toole, Saba Jallow, Deion Byrd,

COS Representatives Present: Demetrius Bynes, HR Director; Kiara Ahmed, Civil Engineer, John Washington, Director of Public Works & Engineering, Jason Boyles, Assistant City Manager; Mayor's Intern: Berenice Zundi; GSU Interns: Ash Strickland & Jelani Crawford

1. Call to Order: 5:32 PM by April Schueths

2. Roll Call: April

3. Approval of agenda

- A. Motion by: Janice Cawthorn
- B. Second by: Julie Pickens
- C. Discussion: None
- D. Vote result: Unanimous

4. Approval of previous meeting minutes (January 30, 2021 & February 15, 2021)

- A. Motion by: Janice Cawthorn
- B. Second by: Stacy Smallwood
- C. Discussion: None
- D. Vote result: Unanimous

5. Public Comments: None

6. Old Business

- A. City of Statesboro Transportation Report: Kiara Ahmed, Civil Engineer & Project Manager of Transit Project, John Washington, Director of Public Works & Engineering, Jason Boyles, Assistant City Manager

Kiara Ahmed started with the overview of the transportation routes and plans. She detailed specific information about the different routes.

Members of One Boro asked several questions about the potential routes, costs, timing, etc.

Johnny was especially interested in the time of routes. Janice had questions about cost.

Jesse asked about the potential of a route going towards the industrial park. April further inquired about that possibility. Kiara discussed the potential for expansion of routes towards the Industrial Park. Members of the

Committee were especially concerned about this expansion, and the route's implications regarding the future development of the workforce.

Julie Chance wondered about whether the industry would be willing to cost share for expansion of the bus route towards the industrial park.

John Washington talked about the potential expansion in connection with COVID relief bill and state grants.

Kiara discussed the fares and finances. Grants which are behind the public transportation project need to be renewed re-applied for every year. John provided more information about the grants. He discussed the technicalities involved and the need to gain and maintain ridership for the transit system. Marketing and promotion of the project will be the key for the success of the project.

April shared a question from Suzanne in the comments about donations by people who would like to promote the project/buy fares for people who need transportation. Both Kiara and John answered the questions. A lively discussion of the project's financing followed. An important reality is that the project is limited by the city limits. CRC provides services for the larger area. A discussion of concerns about CRC followed. John addressed the fact that there are concerns about CRC and they need to be addressed. One discussed contingency is a possibility of CRC becoming overwhelmed. John addressed this concerns and contingency planning for it – this pertains to off-route riders.

Julie Pickens expressed questions about bus scheduling. John and Kiara addressed these questions. New information technologies might be used to inform riders about the precise routes and timing/schedules of buses.

Stacy asked a question about the bus capacity (10) and followed up with implications of COVID crisis for the bus occupancy. He also asked about a potential previous experience of cities of similar size with public transportation.

Kiara clarified that COVID limits will indeed be implemented on occupancy. She also discussed Hinesville's experience – started with large buses, etc. and the experience was not so successful.

Janice discussed the development of the app and the fact that it should be demand-driven.

The buses will have wheelchair capacity – for two wheelchairs per bus.

John also added information about the crossing of red and blue lines.

Freddie had a question about wheelchair accessibility from the sidewalks, and it was answered positively.

Kiara reported there will be good signage and benches at bus stops. A possibility of advertising spaces on the stops is discussed. John mentioned that there will be a bus shelter in specific places.

Johnny had a question about frequency of the buses: Kiara answered that the frequency will be 40 minutes.

More questions followed. Public concerns (Kiara) include COVID, fees and concerns about the frequency of the buses.

April read a comment inquiring about access to buses for visually impaired people.

Suzanne expressed concerns about the size of the buses and marketing strategies. Suzanne and Johnny recommended calling the transit shuttles instead of busing.

Kiara answered referring to the cost of project. Maneuverability and feasibility were other concerns. The project can be expanded later based on the proved need.

Barb (on chat) asked a question about size vs. frequency of buses.

Jesse (from the workforce development point of view) expressed an opinion that reaching to the industrial park would be the key to make the program successful. More discussion followed. CRC is currently in place for that purpose, but not reliable and suitable for this need.

John expressed gratitude for all the comments and concerns.

Jesse emphasized the outreach to customers to make the program a success.

Julie Chase emphasized a potential outreach to employers and marketing the program to them.

Janice: my advice to Kiara: ask and push for solutions.

April expressed gratitude for the program; One Boro is very excited.

City Council officials left the meeting, except for Demetrius Bynes, HR Director. He provided an update. Saturday, 3/6 is the violence prevention conference. Demetrius discussed the logistics, etc. Demetrius also discussed other issues, the metrics and training.

B. Suzanne discussed the One Boro Logo. Members can go to Sew Much Fun and have the logo placed on different items

C. FGL Data Report: Ash was not available to provide the report

D. Equity Metrics Subcommittee Report: Janice Cawthorn. She shared a document with April and Stacy for feedback and then it will be shared with the group.

E. Training Subcommittee Report: Julie Pickens. Training meeting took place last Friday. The question of resource, timing are still open. The training events will most likely take place in the fall.

F. The Longest Table Subcommittee Report: Barb King & Julie Pickens. No updates

G. Violence Prevention Subcommittee Report: Stacy Smallwood. Reviewed some highlights about the Violence Prevention Meeting on Saturday, 3/6 8:30 am. The conference will be a chance to reach out to other interested members of the community Demetrius will have a sign-up for people who are interested in joining the Violence Prevention Subcommittee. Demetrius agreed to bring blank name tags. Janice offered to make name tags for One Boro members who contact her.

H. Workforce Development Subcommittee Report: Jesse Hartlett & Julie Chance. There will be a meeting with WorkSource on March 10 at 6 pm. Jesse will put together an agenda for the meeting. April will create a zoom link for the meeting.

7. New Business

April proposed that One Boro meet once a month, the first Monday of each month, as the full committee, instead of twice per month. This will give subcommittees the opportunities to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month or another day of their choosing. The group agreed.

April clarified that our next One Boro meeting is Monday, April 5.

Demetrius will check on the requirements for agendas and note-taking for subcommittee meetings and let April know.

8. Motion to Adjourn

A. Motion by: Janice

B. Second by: Annie

C. Discussion: None

D. Vote result: Unanimous

The meeting ended on 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Jacek Lubecki, One Boro Secretary

Our Next Regular Meeting: Mon. April 5, 2021 at 5:30 PM