Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority
550 West Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois
Minutes of the Open Session Meeting of the Pace Board of Directors
November 13, 2019

The Board of Directors of Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority, met in public session on Wednesday November 13, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at Pace corporate headquarters, 550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois, pursuant to notice.

Acting Chairman Marcucci led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acting Chairman Marcucci called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Roll Call

Directors physically present: Canning, Carr, Guerin, Hastings, Schielke, Shepley, Soto, Tamley, and Acting Chairman Marcucci.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Soto seconded a motion to allow Directors Claar and Wells to attend via teleconference. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Directors Claar and Wells joined the meeting via teleconference immediately following the vote.

Chairman Kwasneski and Director Larson were absent.

Director Hastings joined the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

SBD #19-107 – Resolution approving the minutes of the Open Session meeting of October 16, 2019.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Soto seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Open Session meeting of October 16, 2019. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Hastings, Schielke, Shepley, Soto, Tamley, Wells, and Acting Chairman Marcucci. All Directors voted Aye.

Richard A. Kwasneski, Chairman
Christopher S. Canning, Terrance M. Carr, Roger C. Claar, David B. Guerin, Kyle R. Hastings, Al Larson
Thomas D. Marcucci, Jefferry D. Schielke, Aaron T. Shepley, Linda Soto, Karen Tamley, Terry R. Wells
Board of Directors
Rocky Donahue, Executive Director
Public Comment

Heather Armstrong asked whether rideshare in Cook County will be “Ride Cook” like Ride DuPage and Ride Kane.

Rocky Donahue explained that Pace is partnering with Cook County and the RTA to fund a demonstration where Pace partners with a rideshare company, like Uber, Lift or VIA, for late-night service in the Harvey and Rosemont areas. Additional information will be given later in the meeting.

Garland Armstrong commented regarding the Rideshare with the RTA, he asked that Pace make sure that riders who need help with mobility will have the proper assistance, and that the vehicles be fully accessible.

Report of Chairman

Acting Chairman Marcucci will give his report following the Directors’ reports.

Directors’ Reports

Director Guerin thanked staff for their assistance in attending the public hearing on the budget that was held in Forest Park, it was the first time he was able to be present at a budget hearing. This hearing was well attended. Director Guerin thanked Mary Donner for all of her hard work on the Dial-a-Ride in River Grove; river Grove residents are pleased with the service.

Director Schielke reported on the public hearing on the budget that was held in Kane County. Pace staff did an excellent job. One person attended the hearing, a newly appointed Kane County Board Member. Director Schielke and Rocky Donahue appeared before the Kane County Board where questions were raised about service, including Dial-a-Ride. The Kane County Board was pleased with Rocky’s answers to their questions.

Director Shepley reported on the public hearing on the budget that was held in McHenry County. He thanked Pace staff, and specifically Mary Donner. A number of people attended the hearing, mostly to express their opinions about discontinuing the Route 806 fixed-route service. Director Shepley stressed how poorly that route performs. During a 6-hour period there are approximately 10 riders, which makes it an inefficient service. Fixed-route service in McHenry County is ill-equipped. McHenry County, like Will County, is not set up on a grid and it is very difficult to get substantial ridership. Public hearing attendees were reminded that Pace is a responsible organization and will not leave riders without service. Pace will find an alternative before discontinuing service it currently provides.

Director Soto reported on the public hearing on the budget that was held in Lake County. She expressed her thanks to the staff, and particularly Mary Donner, who is the glue behind all of the hearings. Several people attended the hearing, including a College of Lake County Board member, Tim Powell, and commented on Pace’s consideration of canceling Saturday service on
Route 570 where ridership is low. Those who use that route are students traveling to the College of Lake County. Director Soto is working with Lake County transportation folks, who did a paratransit study, and Lake County is looking at all transportation avenues to come up with a more efficient service plan.

Mary Donner was to present the proposed Budget with Director Soto before the Lake County Board, but due to an emergency, Director Soto was unable to attend, and Ms. Donner alone presented the budget and did an excellent job.

Director Tamley attended one of the public hearings on the budget that was held in Chicago, there was not much turnout. Director Tamley reported on yesterday’s paratransit Town Hall Meeting hosted by the Progress Center for Independent Living in Oak Park. Rocky and Director Tamley have been doing outreach with disability organizations to learn about any issues related to paratransit service. Rocky, Melinda Metzger and many Pace staff were present at the Town Hall meeting. It was a great opportunity to talk about what Pace is doing with regard to the technology improvements to paratransit; knowing where a vehicle is, being able to schedule and cancel rides on line. Several people gave public comment about their experiences such as late rides and routing issues that Pace staff are looking into. Overall, positive feedback was received about meeting face-to-face with the paratransit riders. The outreach efforts will continue.

Acting Chairman Marcucci attended the public hearing on the budget that was held in DuPage County that appeared to have no attendees. Although this was disappointing, because Pace staff put much effort into the hearing, it tells that the public is happy with the service Pace is providing. Ray Campbell arrived after the meeting was underway. Mr. Campbell is a very strong ADA community advocate in DuPage County and has done a tremendous job for not only his constituency, but for Pace over the years by bringing issues to light in a very constructive manner.

Acting Chairman Marcucci was surprised to read in the newspaper that the Pace Board had voted not to cut proposed routes in the coming year and that was a relief to several communities. Acting Chairman Marcucci stressed that the Board had not voted on this subject either way, and by way of explanation, stated that the proposed budget proposes no rate increase and no service cuts; but, Pace staff, under Rocky’s leadership, felt it was disingenuous to put out that statement while considering some service cuts over the next year—cuts that would make our system better and more productive using taxpayer supported money more effectively. Running a bus all day long that serves 10 riders is not a good use of taxpayer supported dollars. Pace may reallocate poor performing service to areas in greater need. Acting Chairman Marcucci wanted to make this clear to staff and to the media that the Board has not voted regarding cutting proposed routes.

**Report of Executive Director**

Rocky Donahue reported he is very appreciative of Director Tamley’s time and effort in taking him to various organizations that work with individuals with disabilities. Pace is doing a great job, but it can do better—it is committed to doing a better job. Rocky thanked Melinda Metzger
and her team, and Maurice Sanders and Sue Rushing and their staff who are on the front lines working to improve service. Rocky believes these meetings are important to opening up lines of communication.

Pace held 12 budget hearings throughout the region in the last two weeks of October. A total of 67 individuals attended those hearings, and 30 of them provided comments. Pace also received 51 written comments via email and handwritten letters. Comments focused on Pace’s proposed service reduction on eight underperforming routes that Acting Chairman Marcucci discussed earlier. Pace received media attention concerning the hearings. CBS and the Northwest Herald ran stories, and the Daily Herald ran an editorial last week.

Later in the meeting, Pace staff will present a recommendation to adopt the 2020 Budget without a fare increase or service reductions at this time. It is quite possible Pace may bring some individual underperforming routes to the Board during 2020 based on staff recommendations and as a result of what was heard at the meetings. Pace has an obligation to its riders and taxpayers who fund this system, to revamp services to operate more efficiently and effectively with the limited resources available.

Later in the meeting, Pace will ask the Board to approve grant agreements for a total of $250,000 from Cook County and the RTA to enter into an agreement to perform a demonstration with rideshare companies. One demonstration is for late-night service from Rosemont to O’Hare Airport aimed to assist workers with challenges getting to their jobs. In Harvey, Pace runs 24-hour service on Route 252 arriving at the Harvey Transit Center, but there are riders who need a connection to routes that stop at 11 pm or midnight. This rideshare partnership is another way to provide service.

Later in the meeting, Pace consultants with Sam Schwartz, will give a presentation on the status of Pace’s strategic plan, Driving Innovation. It is the hope that this plan, along with the record capital funding we expect to receive from the State of Illinois, will allow us to transform our agency. It will allow us to do the things we haven’t been able to due to lack of resources. It will hopefully allow us to meet the demands of today and the future.

Rocky thanked all Pace employees, especially those at the divisions. There have been unreasonably cold temperatures the past few days and all of the buses have pulled out on time, which is largely contributed to top notch maintenance staff and all of our employees’ efforts.

Pace received another award for the Barrington Road I-90 Interchange. This project has received numerous awards and was just given the 2019 Engineering Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Director Schielke moved, and Director Soto seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin,
Hastings, Schielke, Shepley, Soto, Tamley, Wells, and Acting Chairman Marcucci. All Directors voted Aye.

**SBD #19-108 – Ordinance** authorizing a change order to Contract No. 224779 with AT&T Mobility National Accounts, LLC, for Wireless Communication Services and Equipment per the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) Contract Number S1907. This action extends the contract term for twelve (12) months and increases the contract total from $643,044.74 to $883,044.74, an increase of $240,000.00.

**SBD #19-109 – Ordinance** authorizing a change order to Contract No. 224837 with ADP, LLC, for Payroll Processing Services. This action extends the contract term for twenty-four (24) months and increases the contract total from $621,615.00 to $1,050,265.82, an increase of $428,650.82.

**SBD #19-110 – Ordinance** authorizing Procurement to solicit and award 2020 diesel fuel contract(s) in an amount not to exceed $16,112,725.16.

**SBD #19-111 – Ordinance** authorizing 2019 Capital Budget Amendment #4 adding $15,696 of Section 5339 funds to the 2019 capital budget toward the purchase of a paratransit vehicle.

**Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

**Action Items**

**SBD #19-112 – Ordinance** approving Pace’s 2020 Operating Budget and Capital Program, 2020-2022 Business Plan for Operations, the 2020-2024 Capital Business Plan and 2020 appropriation of funds in accordance with the Program and Budget and authorizing the budget to be submitted to the RTA.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Soto seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Hastings, Schielke, Shepley, Soto, Tamley, Wells, and Acting Chairman Marcucci. All Directors voted Aye.

**SBD #19-113 – Ordinance** authorizing Pace to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for $125,000 in grant funding from the RTA to support a Pace Rideshare Pilot.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Canning seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Hastings, Schielke, Shepley, Soto, Tamley, Wells, and Acting Chairman Marcucci. All Directors voted Aye.
SBD #19-114 – Ordinance authorizing Pace to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for $125,000 in grant funding from Cook County to support a Pace Rideshare Pilot.

Director Shepley moved, and Director Soto seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Hastings, Schielke, Shepley, Soto, Tamley, Wells, and Acting Chairman Marcucci. All Directors voted Aye.

Issues/Discussions/Reports

Ryan Ruehle began a presentation about the development of Driving Innovation, Pace’s Strategic Vision Plan. This process has been guided by a planning study managed by the Strategic & Capital Planning department and assisted by Sam Schwartz Consulting. Ryan introduced Joe Iacobucci from Sam Schwartz Consulting. Joe is a Principal, New Mobility Leader and West Coast General Manager at the firm. Prior to this role, he worked in the Chicago area for many years both at Sam Schwartz and the Chicago Transit Authority.

The planning study is now nearing completion and the consultant’s work will conclude by the end of the year. While the study will soon be completed, the plan itself will remain in draft form as Pace will spend the better part of 2020 vetting the plan though many different cycles of reviews.

The project team will obtain employee feedback about Driving Innovation in the early part of 2020 to ensure that everyone has a chance to comment on or share ideas for improving it.

The Strategic Vision Plan will then be shared with Pace’s partner agencies for review before being released to all external stakeholders for their feedback. It is expected that Driving Innovation will be updated continuously throughout the year as needed, before being presented for adoption by Pace’s Board of Directors.

Proposed plan recommendations were shared that represented a starting point and are subject to change pending further feedback from the Board, the project Steering Committee, and employees.

The presentation included 11 goals and three categories of draft recommendations. Service Development recommendations included ideas for revitalizing our network, expanding rapid transit, partnering with micro-mobility providers, piloting new On Demand and Paratransit programs, simplifying Dial-a-Ride programs, improving vanpool accessibility, and pursuing “tactical” transit improvements. Staffing and Policy recommendations included transitioning from a “transit” agency to a “mobility” provider, developing a “Pace Labs” innovation unit, and creating an internal accessibility team. Finally, Technology recommendations included creating a data management plan, centralizing certain fragmented functions, and transitioning to an electric fleet.

Adjournment
Acting Chairman Marcucci asked for a motion to adjourn into Closed Session for the purposes of discussing closed session minutes (2-C-21) and pending litigation (Section 2-C-11). Director Schielke moved, and Director Canning seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Hastings, Schielke, Shepley, Soto, Tamley, Wells, and Acting Chairman Marcucci. All Directors voted Aye and the meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Reconvene

Acting Chairman Marcucci reconvened the Open Session of the Pace Board of Directors meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Directors physically present: Canning, Carr, Guerin, Schielke, Soto, Tamley, Wells, and Acting Chairman Marcucci.

Directors Claar and Wells attended the meeting via teleconference.

Chairman Kwasneski, Directors Larson and Shepley were absent.

**SBD #19-115 – Resolution** approving the minutes of the Closed Session meeting of October 16, 2019.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Carr seconded a motion to approve the Resolution. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Hastings, Schielke, Soto, Tamley, Wells, and Acting Chairman Marcucci. All Directors voted Aye.

**SBD #19-116 – Ordinance** approving action in the case of Lori Robins, as Special Administrator of the Estate of Richard J. Robins, Deceased, Plaintiff vs. Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority & Daoun Jackson, Cook County Case No. 17 L 011021, as discussed in Closed Session.

Director Soto moved, and Director Canning seconded a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Hastings, Schielke, Soto, Tamley, Wells, and Acting Chairman Marcucci. All Directors voted Aye.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Acting Chairman Marcucci asked for a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting.
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Director Canning moved, and Director Soto seconded a motion to adjourn the Pace Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Pace Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at Pace Corporate Headquarters, 550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Karen Kase
Secretary, Board of Directors