

**Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority
550 West Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois
Minutes of the Open Session Virtual Meeting of the Pace Board of Directors
December 16, 2020**

The Board of Directors of Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority, met virtually on Wednesday December 16, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. pursuant to notice.

Chairman Kwasneski stated that the meeting is taking place virtually in accordance with Executive Order 2020-74.

Chairman Kwasneski led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Roll Call

Directors virtually present: Arfa, Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, Schielke, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.

Director McLeod joined the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

No Directors were absent.

SBD #20-97 – Resolution approving the minutes of the Open Session meeting of November 12, 2020.

Director Schielke moved, and Director Claar seconded a motion to approve the Resolution. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Public Comment

Chairman Kwasneski stated Pace received comments from the Metropolitan Planning Council. They have been sent to all Directors and the Directors can reach out to Rocky Donahue for discussion.

Richard A. Kwasneski, *Chairman*

Rachel Arfa Christopher S. Canning Terrance M. Carr Roger C. Claar David B. Guerin Kyle R. Hastings
Thomas D. Marcucci William D. McLeod Jeffery D. Schielke Erin Smith Linda Soto Terry R. Wells

Board of Directors

Rocky Donahue, *Executive Director*

Chairman's Report

Chairman Kwasneski thanked everyone for their patience and understanding about this meeting being conducted virtually. A determination about January's Board meeting will be made as we get closer to the date.

Chairman Kwasneski welcomed Erin Smith to the Pace Board of Directors.

Chairman Kwasneski thanked Pace employees, extending his appreciation for keeping Pace running as smoothly as it is.

Chairman Kwasneski, along with Directors Canning and Wells, presented the Pace 2021 budget to the Cook County Board of Commissioners last month. Many positive comments from the Commissioners were received.

Chairman Kwasneski stated that Pace continues to work with RTA and its sister agencies—CTA and Metra—advocating for additional federal funding.

Chairman Kwasneski extended happy birthday wishes to Director Jeff Schielke and wished everyone happy holidays and a safe and prosperous new year.

Directors' Reports

Director Canning thanked Pace bus drivers, sanitizers, mechanics, those in the garages, at headquarters, and those who work remotely keeping the system running. Director Canning wished his fellow Board members, Pace leadership, and everyone a happy holiday and a much better 2021.

Director Marcucci reported that he presented the budget to the DuPage County Board last week and thanked Chris Rose for her hard work. In that presentation, he gave a disclaimer that the budget may change, as it is unknown how quickly things will return to normal. Concerns were raised about why this area seemed to be hit hard with route reductions. Director Marcucci stated that demand for service wasn't there and assured that those services will be reviewed in an attempt to return routes to service as quickly as possible when the demand returns.

Director Marcucci cautioned the mayors and former mayors that while people are shopping online much more than they had before the pandemic, the sales taxes paid are severely delayed or not returning to our communities. He believes the state of Illinois is reallocating some of that money, it hadn't previously.

Director Marcucci wished everyone happy holidays.

Director Schielke reported he presented the 2021 budget to the Kane County Board, that has many new Board members and a new Chairman. Director Schielke believes it was well received.

Director Schielke reported that the Visiting Nurses Association is considering using the abandoned Batavia Sam's Club store on Randall Road as a site to administer the COVID-19 vaccination. One positive feature to that site is the Pace bus stop located in front of that property. He believes this will bring many more riders to that route.

Director Schielke wished everyone happy holidays.

Director Smith thanked Pace staff, fellow Board members, and Rocky for reaching out to her and taking time to educate her. She stated that it is an honor and privilege to serve on the Pace board. Director Smith stated that in addition to serving as the Lakewood Village President for eight years and prior to that as a Village Trustee, she served on the McHenry County Council of Governments, and Chicago Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Executive Committee. She chaired the Mayors Taskforce within Chicago's ADA25 Committee, which led to currently serving on the Chicago Community Trust Disability Fund Advisory Board, where she continues to advocate for disability justice and inclusion.

Director Smith hopes everyone will feel comfortable reaching out to her personally to help her learn about any topic. Director Smith wished everyone happy holidays.

Director McLeod wished everyone a happy holiday and thanked the employees who keep the system running. Director McLeod welcomed Director Smith to the Board, stating he worked with her on the Mayor's Caucus and that she is a great leader who will be an asset to Pace.

Director Soto wished Director Smith a warm welcome and a happy birthday to Director Schielke.

Director Soto updated the Board about Abbott opening a manufacturing plant in Gurnee in the Tri-State Industrial Park that is running 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They contacted Pace with a request for service on the Washington bus line, which we are working on. The Village extended strong support and interest in exploring the possibility of working together to make a Tri-State mini transit hub or bus turnaround. Director Soto stated that in her conversations with Rocky and Chairman Kwasneski, she learned that it is possible. She will keep the Board updated as it progresses.

Director Soto expressed her thanks to all Pace staff for their dedication through 2020 in meeting all the challenges the pandemic has brought. She has never been more proud to be a member of the Pace Board and our organization, stating everyone has done a fabulous job and she is the eternal optimist. We have more challenges in 2021, but she also thinks it will be a pivotal year for transportation. Director Soto wished happy holidays to everyone.

Director Wells reported he and Director Canning presented the budget to the Cook County Board last month. In that presentation, he spoke about the South Cook Fair Transit pilot program the county has initiated. It will allow Route 352 to expand. Currently, buses run every 30 minutes, and under this new program, buses would run every 10 minutes, connecting the south suburbs to

the city. Director Wells thanked the Cook County Board for funding the initiative. The pilot program is due to start next month.

Director Wells welcome Director Smith to the Board. Director Wells thanked staff for all of their hard work. He wished everyone happy holidays.

Executive Director's Report

Rocky Donahue welcomed Director Smith and wished a happy birthday to Director Schielke.

Since the November meeting, the 2021 budget has been presented to the county boards and will be presented to the RTA board at their meeting tomorrow, hopefully it is approved.

Ridership has been down in the last four weeks with the second wave of COVID-19. Fixed route ridership is down about 60% from pre-COVID levels. When first hit, we were down about 70%, but in the summer, only down 50%. Overall, for the year we are down about 49% from one year ago. ADA transit ridership is down 43%. TAP (Taxi Access Program) ridership is up 51% from a year ago.

As the COVID vaccine is beginning to roll out, we are advocating with the Federal Transit Administration and the governor's office to be in Tier Two for receiving the vaccine as we are transit workers, especially our front-line employees and operators. We have a host of employees interacting with the public on a regular and daily basis. We continue to work with officials in Washington and hope Congress will act on another round of stimulus funds for transit. The amount is \$15 billion nation-wide, and it is our estimate, CTA, Metra and Pace would receive \$450 million—40% of the amount of C.A.R.E.S. Act funding we received in the spring.

Rocky gave a presentation on the status of the budget in October. We have a shortage of \$14.5 million dollars, which is favorable to the expected \$72 million shortfall. The shortfall is being made up with C.A.R.E.S. Act funding. We received a little over \$100 billion of C.A.R.E.S. Act funding. Sales tax has outperformed as we have received \$28 million. We have saved just under \$31 million. We suspended service on 98 routes, and as a result, we have seen savings in fuel, and we have also saved almost \$13 million in headquarter expenses in labor fringes, and other expenses. Ridership is doing better expected, which has given us a little more farebox revenue than we anticipated, about \$2.5 million.

ADA is down as we have a \$21 million deficit, although ridership is up about 236,000 trips. The Taxi Access Program has increased ridership. Every trip is a single rider trip—for safety reasons—which is costing us more money. TAP is fully funded in 2021.

Rocky thanked all Pace employees for their hard work during this unprecedented time. Later in the meeting, we will honor our newest class of million milers. Unfortunately, we will not be able to meet those individuals live, but we will still take the time to recognize them.

Rocky wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season, and a prosperous new year.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

SBD #20-98 – Ordinance authorizing the award of an OMNIA cooperative purchase contract to Office Depot, Inc. for the purchase of office supplies, related products, and services in an amount not to exceed \$860,374.71.

Action Item

SBD #20-99 – Ordinance authorizing additional funds for the reimbursement of Taxi Access Program (TAP) and Mobility Direct (MD) trips. This action increases the contract total from \$23,996,494.60 to \$43,996,494.60, an increase of \$20,000,000.00.

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

Issues/Discussions/Reports

Melinda Metzger gave a presentation on the Pace 2020 Million Mile Club Induction.

The National Safety Council is a leading nonprofit safety advocate that focuses its efforts on workplace and roadway safety. The Million Miler Club is a safe driving award program that provides recognition for driving defensively. In order to be inducted into the Million Miler Club, a Bus Operator must have driven 12 ½ years without a preventable accident. To become a Two Million Miler, a Bus Operator must have driven 25 years without a preventable accident, and to become a Three Million Miler, a Bus Operator must have driven 37 ½ years without a preventable accident.

The Bus Operators recognized today bring the skill set and dedication needed to continue providing the vital transportation services that our customers depend on.

This year, there are 17 One Million Milers, three Two Million Milers and one Three Million Miler that will be inducted into the Million Miler Club. This year's group of inductees have a combined total of 325 years of driving without a preventable accident. Currently, Pace has 155 active Bus Operators in the Million Miler Club which represents approximately 15% of the total number of Bus Operators (1,051).

Inductees were introduced by Melinda Metzger.

Chairman Kwasneski thanked all of the drivers for keeping riders safe and keeping Pace in a good light with the public. Drivers continue to make this effort and we honor those who have safely put in the time and miles.

Adjournment

Chairman Kwasneski asked for a motion to adjourn into Closed Session for the purposes of discussing closed session minutes (2-C-21). Director Schielke moved, and Director Claar seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Directors Arfa, Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Schielke, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski. All Directors voted Aye.

Reconvene

Chairman Kwasneski reconvened the Open Session of the Pace Board of Directors meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Directors virtually present: Arfa, Canning, Carr, Claar, Guerin, Hastings, Marcucci, McLeod, Schielke, Smith, Soto, Wells, and Chairman Kwasneski.

SBD #20-100 – Resolution approving the minutes of the Closed Session meeting of September 16, 2020.

Director Schielke moved, and Director McLeod seconded a motion to approve the Resolution. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

SBD #20-102 – Ordinance approving the release of Closed Session Minutes as discussed in Closed Session.

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

SBD #20-103 – Ordinance approving the destruction of verbatim records of Closed Sessions as discussed in Closed Session.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Kwasneski asked for a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting.

Director Smith 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 10:31 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Pace Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at Pace Corporate Headquarters, 550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois.



Karen Kase
Secretary, Board of Directors