

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 28, 2016**

**Newport City Hall**

**4:30 p.m.**

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| **Commission Members** | **Agency** | **Present** |
| Marion Greene | Hennepin County RRA | X |
| Janice Rettman | Ramsey County RRA | X |
| Jim McDonough | Ramsey County RRA |  |
| Karla Bigham, Chair | Washington County RRA | X |
| Mike Slavik | Dakota County RRA | X |
| Jen Peterson, Vice Chair | City of Cottage Grove | X |
| Myron Bailey | City of Cottage Grove |  |
| John Kummer | Denmark Township |  |
| Mark Vaughn | City of Hastings | X |
| Cam Gordon | City of Minneapolis |  |
| Tracy Rahm | City of Newport |  |
| Jane Prince | City of St. Paul |  |
| Keith Franke | City of St. Paul Park | X |

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| **Ex-Officio Members** | **Agency** |  |
| Ron Allen | Goodhue County |  |
| Jess Greenwood | Goodhue County |  |
| Judy Mitchell | Canadian Pacific Railway |  |
| Marc Mogan | Prairie Island Indian Community |  |

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| **Staff** | **Agency** | **Present** |
| Jan Lucke | Washington County RRA |  |
| Lyssa Leitner | Washington County RRA | X |
| Hally Turner | Washington County RRA | X |
| Laura Kearns | Washington County | X |
| Kevin Roggenbuck | Ramsey County RRA | X |
| Matt Parent | Dakota County RRA | X |
| Joe Scala | Hennepin County | X |

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| **Others** | **Agency** |
| Brian Smalkoski | Kimley Horn |
| Betsy | District 1 |
| William Loeffler | Unknown |

**Agenda Item #1: Introduction**

Chair Bigham called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Introductions were made by commission members, staff and others present.

**Agenda Item #2: Election of Officers**

Chair Bigham opened nominations for Chair. Motion made by Commissioner Slavik to nominate Commissioner Bigham. Seconded by Councilmember Vaughn. No other nominations. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Chair Bigham opened nominations for vice chair. Motion made by Commissioner Rettman to nominate Councilmember Peterson. Seconded by Mayor Franke. No other nominations. All in favor. Motion Carried.

**Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Slavik to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Peterson. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Greene arrived at 4:38PM

**Agenda Item #4: Consent Items**

Motion was made by Councilmember Peterson to approve the check and claims and the meeting minutes from the December 2, 2015 Commission Meeting. Seconded by Mayor Franke. All in favor**.** Motion Carried.

**Agenda Item #5 Liability Coverage Insurance**

Ms. Turner gave a brief review of the insurance renewal request. Ms. Turner stated in previous years the commission chose **not** towaive the monitory limits on tort liability limits.

Commissioner Rettman made a motion to approve the 2016 Insurance Renewal **without** waiving the statutory tort liability limits. Seconded by commissioner Slavik. All were in favor.The motion carried.

**Agenda Item #6: Implementation Plan Update**

Ms. Turner gave an update on the phased transit improvements discussed as part of the Implementation Plan since the beginning of 2015. The Implementation Plan will determine short- and long-term strategies for implementing BRT and will tie the strategies to funding needs. The study will take approximately fifteen (15) months to complete and is expected to be completed by spring of 2016. During outreach with surrounding communities since the conclusion of the Alternatives Analysis Update, there was a desire to add a route that would better serve the communities. Ms. Turner said two (2) options were presented Route 1 (alternative 1) which was modeled after the AAU, but with the addition of St. Paul Park and Route 2 (Alternative 2) to provide direct connections to corridor or communities by stopping as some specific areas along Highway 61. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Business and Civic Advisory Committee (BCAC) recommended alternative # 2.

Commissioner Slavik said there is still a lot of confusion on what Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) actually is. The lack of express bus in the corridor adds more confusion for people. Commissioner Slavik said on the northern part of the corridor, we need to think about what peoples time is as they connect into Gateway Corridor and the financial aspect of it. On the southern end of the corridor he has received strong support for additional stations in Cottage Grove and Hastings. People have commented the need for three (3) stops in Hastings in not necessary. Commissioner Slavik said he has received a lot of negative responses about stop # 2 in Hastings.

Commissioner Bigham said that it is important to let people know that the express bus is not going away.

**Mayor Franke made a motion to approve Alternative #2 for final analysis in the Implementation Plan. Seconded by Councilmember Peterson. All in favor**. **Motion Carried.**

**Agenda Item #7: 2016 Engagement**

Ms. Turner said staff will continue to educate the corridor communities on what Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is as well as on the development of the Implementation Plan. There will be a public hearing at the conclusion of the study with action from the corridor counties and cities to follow. Ms. Turner said with guidance from the Red Rock Corridor Commission, staff is available to work with businesses along the corridor for input on the study. Ms. Turner said the City of Cottage Grove is convening interest businesses within the city to discuss the project. Ms. Turner asked the commission members if they would like to invite staff into their cities to discuss the study to please let them know. Ms. Turner said the A Line in St. Paul will be opening up some time this spring. This is an arterial bus rapid transit route traveling along Ford Parkway and Snelling Avenue. The Red Rock Corridor Commission could tour the A Line to experience the different ways BRT can be implemented.

Councilmember Peterson suggested having staff look into the Cottage Grove Chamber Business of Commerce show case on April 16, 2016 from 10AM – 2PM. This would be a good opportunity for businesses and area residents to receive more information on the corridor.

**Agenda Item #8 Website and Social Media Update**

There have been 3890 website views in the last 30 days. The Facebook page is now up to 319 like, 12 of those were from one week. A press release will be sent out on January 29, 2016 about Alternative option #2.

**Agenda Item #9 Other**

**Item a:** Commissioner Bigham said Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) met and appointed Commission Bigham and Commissioner Weik with Washington County as chair and vice chair to the RRA. Gateway Corridor has been in the news, stating that the City of Lake Elmo has chosen to support the corridor to travel through their city.

Commissioner Greene said the Bottineau Corridor had their first public hearing joint with the Metropolitan Council. The hearing went very well.

Motion made by Commissioner Slavik to adjourn. Seconded by Councilmember Peterson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.