

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Meeting

APPROVED Minutes

September 18, 2023

3:00 p.m.

The following members were in attendance:

Authority Members in Attendance:

Christian Leinbach, Berks County Board of Commissioners, Chair
Marian Moskowitz, Chester County Commissioner, Vice Chair
Scott France, Executive Director, Montgomery County Planning Commission, Secretary
Jim Gerlach, President, GRCA, Assistant Secretary
Peter Urscheler, Phoenixville Borough Mayor, Assistant Treasurer
Brian O’Leary, Executive Director, Chester County Planning Commission
Eddie Moran, Mayor, City of Reading

Authority Members Absent:

Kenneth Lawrence, Jr., Montgomery County Commissioner, Treasurer

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Christian Leinbach, Chair of the SRPRA, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
Mr. Dan Becker of Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys, legal counsel for the Authority, read the guidelines for making public comments.

2. Adoption of August 28, 2023 Minutes

Christian Leinbach called for any corrections to the minutes.

As there were no corrections or objections to the draft minutes of the August 28, 2023 SRPRA meeting submitted, the minutes were approved.

3. Board Member Comments

There were no Board member comments.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Committee Reports

a. Finance – Commissioner Kenneth Lawrence Jr., Chair

i. Motion to Pay Bills – Action

On behalf of Commissioner Lawrence who was not present, Assistant Treasurer Peter Urscheler said there were four bills presented for payment, subject to the Board’s approval.

Peter Urscheler motioned, and Brian O’Leary seconded, all voted unanimously, and the motion was carried to approve the payments of four bills presented in the SRPRA’s September 18, 2023 Board meeting packet.

b. Marketing & Public Relations– Brian O’Leary, Chair**i. Committee Update**

Brian O’Leary reported that the committee met on September 6th. They discussed social media outreach efforts and reviewed the website. Changes were made to the initial landing page to make it more compelling. It now includes key questions and is more user friendly. He encouraged meeting attendees to check out the website.

c. Planning – Scott France, Chair**i. Committee Update**

Scott France reported that the Planning Committee meeting with PennDOT has been rescheduled and will be held at the end of November.

Scott said coordination with the FRA continues on the Statement of Work for the federal appropriation funds grant agreement, and a meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday with the FRA to continue the process. Work also continues on the RFP, which should be ready to go out soon. A review team has been formed and will meet to review the proposals when they are received.

Scott explained that this Thursday’s meeting with SEPTA has been postponed, to be held a few weeks later. He mentioned that on the Montgomery County side, they are coordinating with Pottstown for the upcoming October SRPRA Board meeting to be held at Montgomery County Community College to discuss specific arrangements and presentations for the meeting.

Finally, Scott announced that all members of the SPRAs Executive Committee will be participating in October the Pennsylvania Economic Development Authority (PEDA) Conference.

d. Personnel – Comm. Moskowitz, Chair**i. Committee Update**

Commissioner Moskowitz, Chair, said that the Committee had no news to report.

e. Community Engagement – Jim Gerlach, Chair**i. Committee Update**

Jim Gerlach thanked Scott, Peter and Tom for their help in preparing the Committee’s memo to regional state and federal legislators to update them on the SRPRA project and what the municipalities (Reading, Pottstown, and Phoenixville) are doing as well. Jim reminded attendees that a second community engagement meeting will be held in on October 4th at 4:30 p.m. at Alvernia University’s CollegeTowne in Reading. This meeting will include a broader group of stakeholders than the first meeting and answer questions and provide updates on the rail restoration project, the Franklin Street Train Station analysis and Reading Transit Oriented Development planning process.

Jim recalled Scott’s comment on the upcoming Pennsylvania Economic Development Authority (PEDA) Conference on October 17th, and said that he would follow up with Deb Millman and Aaron Gantz at Greater Reading Chamber Alliance (GRCA) who are coordinating to connect with Scott and Tom re participation in the event.

Finally, Jim asked Scott and Peter if they wanted to conduct second community outreach meetings in both Pottstown and Phoenixville, and if so, to let him know if they’d like the committee’s assistance in arranging the meetings.

f. By-Laws – Scott France, Chair**i. Committee Update**

Scott France, Chair of the new subcommittee on the SRPRA’s by-laws, reported that he and the other committee members (Brian O’Leary, Dan Becker and Tom Frawley) met in September to begin a review of the complete SRPRA by-laws for language, consistency, expanding the vacancies clause,

reappointments and roll-call vote procedures. They will: finish the review, assemble formal changes to the bylaws to be proposed over the next two weeks; internally share a draft of the proposed changes with Board members; run it by the Executive Committee; present the final proposal and take a vote to advertise the amendment at the October 23rd SRPRA Board meeting. Per the current by-laws, 30 days are required between the proposed changes being published and the Board taking action.

Dan Becker said that each of the three individual counties must pass resolutions regarding the proposed amendment of the Articles of Incorporation, that will correspond with the changes in the Bylaws, and that advertising requirements apply. The final step would be to submit the Amendment to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

6. Executive Director's Report

Tom Frawley, Executive Director, said that he will meet with the FRA on Wednesday regarding the grant agreement technical review. After technical staff approve, the documents would still have to be reviewed by the FRA legal team to finalize it, but once the tech side has signed off, the RFP can be advertised.

Tom encouraged everyone to who has an Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn account to spread the word about the SRPRA project and website.

Tom reminded the Board and attendees that the October SRPRA board meeting would be held as a hybrid/in person meeting in Pottstown, at Montgomery County Community College's North Hall at 3 p.m.

Tom asked that anyone interested in the October 17th Pennsylvania Economic Development Authority (PEDA) event to contact David Hunter of Berks County, as he is coordinating efforts.

7. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

8. General Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjourn

Christian Leinbach called to adjourn the meeting.

Peter Urscheler motioned, and Marian Moskowitz seconded, all voted unanimously, to adjourn the September 2023 meeting of the SRPRA Board.

Next Board Meeting

The October 23, 2023 SRPRA Board meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m., as a hybrid meeting at Montgomery County Community College's North Hall in Pottstown, and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Marie Meehan