



MINUTES

CITIZENS ADVISORY NETWORK REGULAR MEETING

Monday March 25, 2024 6:00 p.m.

Three Rivers Transit Center, Conference Room Kennewick, WA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88161679988?pwd=fxrppdq7U7NCfNysoYymMxYiXmfUTu.1>

Meeting ID: 881 6167 9988 Passcode: 155544 Dial In: (253) 215 8782 or (888) 788 0099

CAN Meeting Agenda, Meeting Minutes and archived Zooms will be available at:
[Citizens Advisory Network - Board Information | Ben Franklin Transit \(bft.org\)](#)

1. CONVENE CAN MEETING

Chair, Ed Frost

Convened at: 6:04 pm

2. ROLL CALL

Secretary / Recorder, Dennis Kreutz

Representing	Attendee Name	Title	Status
Citizen Advisory Network	Ed Frost	Chair	Present
Citizen Advisory Network	Dori Luzzo-Gilmour	Vice Chair / Recruitment Chair	Present
Citizen Advisory Network	Dennis Kreutz	Recording Secretary	Present
Citizen Advisory Network	Frank Cuta	Member	Present
Citizen Advisory Network	Bernie Vinther	Member	Present
Citizen Advisory Network	Laurie Price	Member	Absent
Citizen Advisory Network	Mathew Howie	Member	Present
Citizen Advisory Network	Nayeli Aranda	Member	Zoom
Citizen Advisory Network	Brooklyn Hufstader	Member	Absent
Citizen Advisory Network	Ulises Navarro	Member	Zoom
Citizen Advisory Network	Vanessa Pruitt	Member	Present
BFT Staff	Janet Brett	Manager of Communications	Present
BFT Staff	Sarah Funk	CFO / Interim GM	Present
BFT Staff	Imelda Collop	Planning / Development	Present

3. COMMENTS BY GUESTS:

Chair, Ed Frost

None

4. MINUTES FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING APPROVAL: Chair, Ed Frost

Discussion: None

Motion to Approve the Minutes by: Dori Luzzo-Gilmour

Second to Approve the Minutes by: Mathew Howie

Minutes Approved unanimously by a Voice Vote of the CAN Members: YES

5. OLD BUSINESS:

Chair, Ed Frost

None

6. NEW BUSINESS:

Chair, Ed Frost

A. Report of the March BFT Board of Directors Meeting.

CAN Member: Mathew Howie

1. Public Comment was largely about Via Connect services, only negative comments regarding the possible use for DAR Overflow Services.

Ed Frost asked that if CAN Members who were in attendance at the Board Meeting had input this would be a good time for CAN to discuss.

In CAN Meeting - It was pointed out that there were numerous questions raised by CAN and Public Comment that had not been responded to by BFT. Imelda Collop stated that the questions were being addressed within BFT and the answers would be published to the CAN for discussion prior to the upcoming Board Meeting.

2. The following was entered into the Board Minutes:

CAN Recommendation 2024-01

PUBLIC COMMENTS VIA ZOOM IN BFT BOARD MEETINGS

Issue:

BFT Board of Directors announced in the January 11, 2024 Board Meeting that Public Comments via Zoom would no longer be an option.

3. The following was entered into the Board Minutes:

CAN Recommendation 2024-02

PUBLIC COMMENTS IN BOARD MEETINGS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Issue:

Per the Agenda of the January 11, 2024 BFT Board Meeting Public Comments in the Board Meeting will no longer be allowed unless the comment is in regard to an Agenda Item.

4. Board discussed the issue raised by Director Didier that they might want to lower the Transit Tax Rate .1%, from .6% to .5%. Director Didier also requested to know how much cash BFT currently has. Sarah Funk stated that there was approximately \$50M. After some discussion the Board decided to form an investigative committee.

In CAN Meeting – Members discussed the need for the CAN to draft a recommendation that could be reviewed and voted on for possible presentation to the Board at the upcoming Board Meeting. The Recommendation would be to take a position regarding reducing the Transit Tax which would result in loss of Move Forward Washington funding for the BFT Kids Ride Free Program.

A committee was selected: Dori Luzzo-Gilmour / Mathew Howie / Dennis Kreutz

- B. Kevin Sliger stated that BFT is neutral at the moment as to whether Veterans Passes should be issued for both DAR and Coach riders. BFT would like a recommendation from CAN regarding this issue.

BFT ACTION: BFT make presentation in CAN April Meeting.

- C. See February Meeting Minutes Item 6.C.

BFT ACTION: The results of Finance Department Fare Impact actual costs will be presented to CAN in the April CAN Meeting.

- D. In the February CAN Meeting BFT Imelda Collop presented information regarding new rollout of Audio.

ACTION BY BFT deferred to April - Imelda Collop will send an email with BFT's goals and information for Audio Instruction Rollout on what is being provided.

ACTION BY BFT deferred to April– Imelda Collop with report back regarding availability of audio feedback on the Transit App.

CAN Members Discussion: An investigative CAN Team consisting of Vanessa and Frank will meet with Imelda and present findings in the April CAN Meeting.

- E. Discuss whether Citizen Advisory Network should become more involved in educating citizens about Washington Initiative 2117 (Repeal sections of the 2021 Climate Commitment Act so that Carbon Tax Credits are not collected) which if enacted would result in a loss of approximately \$7M in funding per year to BFT for Paratransit services.

CAN ACTION: See Item 6.A.4. above.

BFT ACTION: Kevin Sliger will make sure that CAN will receive a BFT Presentation in 1-2 months regarding the quantified information that BFT has put together regarding the potential impact of the loss of the funds.

- F. Assign CAN Member to attend BFT Board Meeting in April.

CAN Member Assigned: Mathew Howie

It was also encouraged that all CAN Members attend Board Meetings.

7. BFT BOARD / BFT STAFF COMMENTS:

Imelda Collop asked for any CAN Members interested to contact BFT Media Brittany Nelson at Marketing@BFT.org to assist with Audio and Video marketing.

Imelda Collop passed out information for Pasco, Richland, and Kennewick City Council Meetings; and Franklin County and Benton County Commissioners Information to encourage CAN Members to attend in regards to BFT being discussed.

8. CAN MEMBER COMMENTS:

None

9. OTHER:

None

10. NEXT MEETING:

A. Regular CAN Meeting Monday April 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair, Ed Frost

A. Meeting adjourned at: 7:25 pm