



## MINUTES

### CITIZENS ADVISORY NETWORK REGULAR MEETING

Monday July 15, 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:

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Secretary / Recorder, Dennis Kreutz

Representing	Attendee Name	Title	Status
Citizen Advisory Network	Ed Frost	Chair	
Citizen Advisory Network	Dori Luzzo-Gilmour	Vice Chair / Recruitment Chair	
Citizen Advisory Network	Dennis Kreutz	Recording Secretary	
Citizen Advisory Network	Frank Cuta	Member	
Citizen Advisory Network	Bernie Vinther	Member	
Citizen Advisory Network	Laurie Price	Member	
Citizen Advisory Network	Mathew Howie	Member	
Citizen Advisory Network	Nayeli Aranda	Member	
Citizen Advisory Network	Brooklyn Hufstader	Member	
Citizen Advisory Network	Ulises Navarro	Member	
Citizen Advisory Network	Vanessa Pruitt	Member	
BFT Staff	Janet Brett	Manager of Communication	
BFT Staff	Kevin Sliger	Chief Planning / Development	
BFT Staff	Imelda Collop	Planning / Development	

#### 3. COMMENTS BY GUESTS:

Chair, Ed Frost

#### 4. MINUTES JUNE 2024 MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL: Chair, Ed Frost

Discussion:

Motion to Approve the Minutes by:

Second to Approve the Minutes by:

Minutes Approved unanimously by a Voice Vote of the CAN Members: YES / NO

**5. OLD BUSINESS:**

Chair, Ed Frost

- A. There was discussion in the June CAN Meeting that it would be beneficial for repeated audio messages from Coaches that are stopped at Transit Centers and that the audio might be more useful if it contained detailed route information rather than just Coach number and direction.

BFT believes that the repeat option is not available.

BFT ACTION ITEM: Find out if messaging is technically available, and if can be repeated at Transit Centers.

- B. In the June CAN Meeting we discussed email sent to CAN by Transit Awareness TC  
Email is included below as Attachment C  
DRAFT of possible CAN Response is included below as Attachment D

CAN ACTION ITEM: Chairperson Ed Frost will contact the email address to see if they will meet with him to discuss.

Discuss if a response should be made since we received this as a Public Comment.

- C. In the June CAN Meeting BFT and CAN Members discussed using the Owl Zoom Camera/Audio device during BFT Board Meetings so Directors talking can be identified by Zoom attendees.

BFT ACTION ITEM: Kevin Sliger will discuss with Board and implement if they are in agreement. Report on status.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

Chair, Ed Frost

- A. Assign CAN Member to attend BFT Board Meeting:

**7. BFT BOARD / BFT STAFF COMMENTS:**

**8. CAN MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**9. OTHER:**

**10. NEXT MEETING:**

- A. Regular CAN Meeting Monday August 19, 2024, in the Three Rivers Transit Center Office, at 6:00 p.m.

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair, Ed Frost

- A. Meeting adjourned at:

## ATTACHMENT C: EMAIL SENT TO CAN BY TRANSIT AWARENESS TC

**From:** transit awareness tc [mailto:transitawarenesstc@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 11:08 AM

**To:** brookhuf@gmail.com; catlady126@aol.com; dennis.kreutz@yahoo.com; Dori Luzzo Gilmour; edwinfrosto123@gmail.com; frank@cuta.net; laurie.price@rsd.edu; myorkhowie@gmail.com; naaranda@psd1.org; pvanessa68@gmail.com; ulisesn@alcon.media

**Subject:** Urgent Call for Accountability and Representation

Dear Citizens Advisory Network Members,

I am deeply troubled by recent developments at our agency over the past year. The decisions to replace essential dial-a-ride services with a taxi service, consider discontinuing free youth riding, restrict public comment, propose fare increases, implement service reductions, face impending layoffs, and encounter challenges with the sales tax issue threaten to significantly impact our services. These actions raise serious concerns about the direction and decision-making within our agency.

I have cc'd you on a message to the board that provides insights into the current challenges we are facing. The reality is that the previous general manager's actions led to a significant loss of staff. Unfortunately, the current interim GM is continuing down a similar path, making irrational decisions that have resulted in unpaid bills, vendors unwilling to work with us, and crucial reports not being submitted promptly, jeopardizing our funding and operations. It appears our agency is in a state of disarray.

We are at a crucial juncture where choosing the right CEO is paramount. The current leadership lacks the essential comprehension and expertise needed to proficiently manage our taxpayer funds and effectively serve the community. Instead, we are witnessing the agency falter due to poor leadership and mismanagement. The lack of accountability within the board is equally concerning and unacceptable.

Here's how you can contribute:

1. Advocate for inclusion in the evaluation process of a new CEO.
2. Evaluate the validity of my concerns and their impact on our agency.
3. Request from HR a detailed staff headcount and hire dates.
4. Investigate the number of outstanding bills and the implications.
5. Demand a monthly list of public comments.
6. Request a comprehensive budget analysis with year by year comparison dating back to 2021.

Looking ahead, I believe it's crucial to enhance accountability within our agency. I propose that a member of the Citizens Advisory Network (CAN) be appointed to the board. This step will ensure that your voices are heard and that we have better oversight and accountability for the board, GM, and CEO, thereby preventing such situations from arising again in the future.

As you conduct your evaluation, you will discover that our concerns are justified. Ben Franklin Transit must prioritize the community's needs and restore efficient service. It is crucial that prompt action is taken to appoint capable leadership and resolve the current situation.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent matters. Together, we can ensure our agency meets its responsibilities to the community.

## **ATTACHMENT D: CAN RESPONSE TO EMAIL BY TRANSIT AWARENESS TC DRAFT 01**

CAN Response to Transit Awareness TC email dated June 14, 2024 DRAFT 01

1.

Dear Citizens Advisory Network Members

I am deeply troubled by recent developments at our agency over the past year.

CAN: Need to respond to BFT and Board since we received as a Guest Comment?

2.

The decisions to replace essential dial-a-ride services with a taxi service

3.

consider discontinuing free youth riding

4.

restrict public comment

5.

propose fare increases

6.

implement service reductions

7.

face impending layoffs

8.

and encounter challenges with the sales tax issue threaten to significantly impact our services.

9.

These actions raise serious concerns about the direction and decision-making within our agency.

10.

I have cc'd you on a message to the board that provides insights into the current challenges we are facing.

CAN: Put message on CAN Agenda.

11.

The reality is that the previous general manager's actions led to a significant loss of staff.

12.

Unfortunately, the current interim GM is continuing down a similar path, making irrational decisions that have resulted in unpaid bills,

13.

vendors unwilling to work with us,

14.

and crucial reports not being submitted promptly,

15.

jeopardizing our funding and operations.

16.

It appears our agency is in a state of disarray.

17.

We are at a crucial juncture where choosing the right CEO is paramount.

18.

The current leadership lacks the essential comprehension and expertise needed to proficiently manage our taxpayer funds and effectively serve the community.

19.

Instead, we are witnessing the agency falter due to poor leadership and mismanagement.

20.

The lack of accountability within the board is equally concerning and unacceptable.22.  
Here's how you can contribute:

20a.

1. Advocate for inclusion in the evaluation process of a new CEO.

20b.

2. Evaluate the validity of my concerns and their impact on our agency.

20c

3. Request from HR a detailed staff headcount and hire dates.

20d,

4. Investigate the number of outstanding bills and the implications.

20e,

5. Demand a monthly list of public comments.

20f.

6. Request a comprehensive budget analysis with year by year comparison dating back to 2021.

21.

Looking ahead, I believe it's crucial to enhance accountability within our agency.

22.

I propose that a member of the Citizens Advisory Network (CAN) be appointed to the board. This step will ensure that your voices are heard and that we have better oversight and accountability for the board, GM, and CEO, thereby preventing such situations from arising again in the future.

23.

As you conduct your evaluation, you will discover that our concerns are justified.

24.

Ben Franklin Transit must prioritize the community's needs and restore efficient service.

25.

It is crucial that prompt action is taken to appoint capable leadership and resolve the current situation.

26.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent matters. Together, we can ensure our agency meets its responsibilities to the community.