

Monthly Board Meeting – August 2022

Thursday, August 18, 2022 – 5:30 PM

Location: Virtual – A recording of the meeting can be [found here](#)

Minutes

In Attendance

Voting Members:

Randy Atkin, Mike Christensen, John Pearson, Chris Stout,

Excused Voting Members:

Austin Whitehead

Non-Voting Members:

Curtis Haring

Meeting Called to Order at 5:35 PM

Agenda Items Discussed

Agenda

Approval of July 2022 Minutes - All

(no discussion).

Mike motions to approve the July 2022 minutes as drafted and distributed on July 26

John seconds motion

Motion passes: 3-0 (Randy Absent)

Executive Director activities report/Number's Update – Curtis Haring

Curtis provided an update on his activities since the last board meeting in July and reported that he had worked 15 hours in that time. Highlights included:

Media/Outreach

- Published Bike on Transit Survey, which gained the attention of Telemundo and City Weekly

Fundraising

- Spoke with Jay Fox at UTA about possible funds and submitted a proposal to him that has been forwarded to Nichol Bourdeaux, Chief of Planning and Engagement at UTA
- Registered us with the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation, we won't be able to apply for much now, but will revisit in Q2 of 2023 when they are taking applications for Community Enhancementⁱ.

Networking

- Met with Jay Fox, UTA Executive Director
- Met with Provo Bike Walk board, will be meeting with full group in the next few months.
- Met with Joel Batterman, ED of the Transit Riders of the US Together (TRUST)ⁱⁱ.
- Reached out to Rod Dunn, President of the Amalgamated Transit Union in Utah to find time.

Upcoming Activities

- Meeting with Rod Dunn, President of the Amalgamated Transit Union of Utah 8/22
- Meeting with Conor Dunstan to discuss building a chapter at the U of U Campus 8/22

A few numbers:

- 51 new Twitter Followers over the past month (71 this time last month), now at 327 (276 last month)
- 29 new subscribers/members over the past month (19 last month) now at 75 members.

Chris motions to allow UTRU to become a member of TRUSTⁱⁱⁱ

John seconds motion

Motion passes: 3-0 (Randy abstains)

Jay Fox Meeting Recap – Curtis Haring

Curtis recapped the meeting he had with UTA's Executive Director, Jay Fox. Curtis noted that Jay Fox wanted to work with UTRU as we advocate for more and better transit. Mr. Fox wants to change the relationship between UTRU and UTA into one where we are "Cooperative Colleagues."

Mr. Fox was happy to hear that UTRU exists as a group and has offered his services to help us grow. He also received the training grant similar to the grant submitted to UCAIR. This has been forwarded to Nichol Bourdeaux, Chief of Planning & Engagement.

The biggest thing that Curtis wanted to get across was what he felt it was a positive meeting and that Mr. Fox was receptive to UTRU and it's mission.

Vineyard Stop Activity Recap – Curtis Haring

There was no Vineyard stop opening event and Curtis theorized that there were three main reasons for this: First, Chris sent an email noting that UTA does not allow any political speech on the property of any sort; second, Provo Bike Walk was not interested in participating as they are focused on the city of Provo proper; third, there really was not enough time to bring all the pieces together, particularly the creation and printing of fake schedules.

Curtis suggested that, if we do want to have an event for an opening of lines, that would probably be the Ogden BRT line.

John asked about the First Amendment issues related to us not being able to flyer. Chris notes that the law treats the land as private property and that there are ordinances that only really allow the land to only be used for getting on or off the bus. In addition Curtis added that it was not a bridge we don't want to burn. Chris did note that there were some loopholes if we have the blessing of the UTA ED.

September Quarterly and October Annual Meeting Discussion – Chris Stout

Chris noted that the September meeting leads into the October annual meeting so that we can elect a board. Chris suggested that we include something about the bike survey and to reach out to Andrew Gruber at the Wasatch Front Regional Council about the plan for bike infrastructure; he also suggested that we reach out to UTA to see where they are at.

Other ideas Chris floated included having UTA talk about how change day is going, what criteria have to be met in order for routes to be restored along with what the foreseeable future looks like.

John also wants to make sure we give members something to do and talked about the idea of the importance of bus shelters and could make this an activity for chapters to do and have UTA discuss. Randy added that TRAX stations have very limited seating and shade and that this should be included as part of the census. He would also like more people to be aware of the UTA van pool and if this is an opportunity to build chapters around this as well. Finally, John wants to make sure that we focus about women and transit, noting issues around safety (both actual and perceived) and the need to be able to safely bring children on transit (after some discussion, he feels this would be more appropriate as a survey).

Mike noted that the Fed's are really starting to push forward with interstate and intrastate rail transit and that UTRU should be part of that discussion as things start to move forward. He will also be attending a national conference regarding this and that there might be funding

opportunities for UTRU and the Utah Rail Passengers Association. Mike would be willing to discuss this as part of the meeting.

Chris also noted that the October meeting primarily focuses on electing officers and what the priorities for UTRU are.

Call for September Newsletter Articles – Curtis Haring

Curtis calls for articles and specifically asks Mike if he can write an article about what the URPA and if Chris can write an article about being “mid-valley carless.” Austin also submitted an article for the last go-around so he does not need to submit.

John would be willing to add an article and Curtis will follow up with Randy.

Discussion: Fundraising/Organizations contacts – All

Everyone should now have access to the Teams drive and Curtis encourages people to start adding names where appropriate so that he can investigate fundraising opportunities and organizations to contact.

Chris also floated the idea of paying for a list of fundraising options. Curtis feels that it isn’t a bad idea, but he doesn’t know if we have exhausted the free options to date.

Open forum – All

John wanted to make sure we create a survey for women and transit, which was agreed to be created after the closure of the bike survey.

John also wanted to look into advertising on UTA and Curtis said he could do this along with other transit agencies in the state as well.

Curtis also asked if John received a UTRU address. He has not and Chris informed us that Steph, who creates the addresses has had the week off and that she wouldn’t be back on Monday.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 15th and the September membership meeting is Saturday September 17th.

Action Items:

ⁱ John asked Curtis to send him information about the Q4 Rocky Mountain Power Foundation fundraising guidelines.

ⁱⁱ Curtis will be looking into the Ben And Jerries Foundation and Transit Center

ⁱⁱⁱ Curtis will sign UTRU up to become an official member of TRUST