

Monthly Board Meeting – November 2022

Sunday, November 13, 2022 – 12:00 PM

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

Minutes

In Attendance

Voting Members:

Zach Adams, Randy Atkin, Mike Christensen, Chris Stout

Excused Voting Members:

Bre Clementine

Unexcused Voting Members:

John Pearson

Non-Voting Members:

Curtis Haring

Meeting Called to Order at 12:05 PM

Agenda

Prior to the start of the formal agenda items Chris began a discussion about filling in officer positions for the board (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer). Chris was concerned that we are not yet a functioning board as we have not yet filled the board (there are currently six and the bylaws require nine). Chris wants to make sure that this is the board's number one priority.

Randy posed to the group the possibility that we assign officers so that we know who is responsible for what, even if we don't have a full board just to make sure we know who is responsible for what, even if we don't give them the formal title of officer. Curtis agreed with Randy on this issue and said that it should be a charge of the entire board to continue recruitment and possibly have a discussion offline.

Chris and Randy both noted that the size of the organization may not require formal titles at this time, noting that Chris has been filling the positions of President and Treasurer while Curtis has been handling the secretary roles.

As part of this, Chris will create a one or more resolutions to help make adding additional individuals to the board a simpler process and will present these to the board during the December meetingⁱ.

Approval of August 2022 Minutes, August Special Session Minutes, and October Minutes - All

Randy requested clarification on the August minutes regarding the distribution of fliers at the Vinyard stop, noting that the wording contained a double negative and requested an edit. The August draft minutes will now read:

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.

*Randy motions to approve the August 2022 minutes (as Amended), August Special Session minutes, and October Minutes sent on November 8
Chris seconds motion
Motion passes: 4-0*

Executive Director activities report/Membership update – Curtis Haring

Curtis has worked 19.5 hours since the last meeting.

Media/Outreach:

- Successfully handled the annual convention
- Created the first monthly check in email to keep members up to date (this is in addition to the quarterly newsletter).
- Met with Gray Thomas to discuss the creation of a formal media strategy.
- Created blog post regarding UDOT's plans in Davis County.

Fundraising:

- Completed the application for an Amazon Smile account.
- Finished paperwork for Smiths Donor account (need to mail documentation to Smiths on Monday).
- Started putting together contact list of cities and county contacts for funding the advocacy program
- Continuing to reach out to banks and credit unions.

Networking

- Met with the two new board members to get them up to speed on our activities.

- Met with Ellen Birrell with Cottonwood Heights City Council, who is also an auxiliary for transit planning along the Wasatch Front and is an advocate for transit.
- Presented to the Planetary Health Alliance with John to talk about the importance of emotion in policy discussions (this section will also be used as part of the advocacy training, so we were able to get some double duty out of this one).
- With Mike, met with the Wasatch Front Regional Council regarding an update to the study commissioned by the Council and State of Utah to evaluate the possibility of Free Fare Forever.

Upcoming Activities
(None)

Membership Numbers

- 15 new Twitter followers over the past month – 503 total
- 1 new TikTok Follower – 2 total
- 1 new YouTube Follower – 4 total
- 21 new members over the past month – 129 total.
- 1 new person on mailing list (non-member) – 15 total
- 5 people have paid dues for the 2022-23 administration.

Welcome New Board Members – Zach Adams

Zach introduced himself to the group and noted that he is excited by the potential and growth of the organization.

Planning for 2022/23 – All

Curtis wants to put together the Women In Transit survey. He will create a draft of this prior to publishing the poll and ask women to look over the questions prior to publishingⁱⁱ.

Chris wants to make sure we put a focus on reestablishing service levels to pre-pandemic levels. Chris also asked if we have seen any service disruptions and if we know that UTA is still looking for drivers. Mike has heard of a few occasions where “ghost busses” are happening, however the December reductions are designed to mitigate this.

Mike attended the annual budget hearing for UTA this week and was impressed with the turnout from Students for the Wasatch, which was advocating for service in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon. Curtis will reach out to the group to see if a relationship can be builtⁱⁱⁱ.

Mike also noted that he published a blog post for Building Salt Lake regarding UDOT’s plan to expand I-15 in Davis County, which should be published on Monday (UTRU will cross post once published)^{iv}. He added that Sweet Streets Salt Lake is planning to fight this and feels that we

should partner with them on the issue^v. Chris would like the message to be focused on “Service Choices.”

Randy would like UTRU to focus specifically on how to advocate for change day activities. Chris notes that he has never seen UTA step back any of the decisions they have made and that the goal is to get more people involved so that they can make their voice heard; Chris wants us to point out that there are people upset with the changes that are being suggested. Randy wonders if there is a way to track such complaints and Curtis suggests that UTRU makes an independent submission form that we publish on our website and making these suggestions public.

In addition, Curtis would like to make sure that UTRU has a presence at UTA events and meetings and that they are prepared to speak on the issues.

Membership growth and fundraising remain an ongoing goal.

Open Forum – All

Chris wants the quarterly convention in February to be placed on the December Board Meeting^{vi}.

Randy asked for clarification on the meeting schedule. Thursday meetings are canceled; meetings will be on the Second Sunday of the month going forward.

Adjourn

Action Items

- ⁱ Chris will write one or more resolutions regarding emergency appointments to the Board of Directors.
- ⁱⁱ Curtis to create draft questions for Women in Transit survey
- ⁱⁱⁱ Curtis will reach out to Students for the Wasatch.
- ^{iv} Curtis to post Mike’s Blog post.
- ^v Curtis to reach out to Sweet Streets.
- ^{vi} Curtis to add February quarterly meeting on December Agenda.