



Board Minutes

Meeting Time: 8 APR '13, 6:00 PM

Location:

*Knox Presbyterian Church
806 W. Knox Avenue
Spokane WA 99205*

Attendees

Board: Don Cain, Dick Raymond, KC Traver, Phyllis Holmes, Rich Bryant, Larry Swartz, Keith Lamotte, and Nick Nickoloff.

Friends: Bill Goetter, Mary Lee Nickoloff, and Trudy Raymond.

Agenda Notes

1. Chair's Call to Order (D. Cain) at 6:05 pm;

- **Administrative Items**

None reported.

- **"In the News" Items**

1) Status of construction of a new light rail station at SeaTac Airport reported to start in May 2013. This project extends the light rail another 1.6 miles south via elevated double track. It is anticipated to stimulate some 12,000 jobs as part of the planned transit oriented development around the new station. Ref:

<http://www.highlinetimes.com/2013/04/04/news/construction-new-seatac-light-rail-station-begin->

2) Clackamas County (Oregon) Board of County Commissioners has put a controversial advisory vote on the May 21, 2013 ballot that seeks public input on whether to honor a signed contract with Tri-Met regarding extension of light rail to the county. Ironically, the last sentence of the ballot measure states, "Approval or rejection of the ordinance will not affect the County's obligation with respect to those previous contractual commitments." Ref:

http://www.wweek.com/portland/blog-29956-clackamas_light_rail.html.

3) Washington Governor, Jay Inslee, says new I-5 Columbia River bridge must include light rail. A controversy over the bridge design still disputes whether the bridge should extend Portland's light rail system into Vancouver. Ref:

http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2020615404_apwacolumbiariverbridgeinslee.html

2. Vice President's Report: (D. Raymond)
 - *The website has experienced 21,523 contact hits from inception to date with 165 hits occurring since our last meeting in March 2013.*
 - *Dick addressed a problem with accessing email at InlandRail.org. He provided an updated web address for access that resulted from the recent change in server hosting.*
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3. Treasurer's Report: (N. Nickoloff)
 - *The organization's account balance stands at **\$2,918.01** all bills paid and none pending. This represents no change from the March '13 account balance.*
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4. Secretary's Report: (K.C. Traver)
 - **Minutes from previous Board Meeting**
 - Action: Phyllis Holmes moved to approve the minutes from the 11 Feb '13 meeting and Nick Nickoloff seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, one change was made to the attendee list. The revised minutes were **approved** by unanimous vote of the members present. Dick will post the corrected minutes to the InlandRail.org website.*
5. Old Business
 - Letter to Mick McDowell. *Don reported that he signed and mailed the follow-up thank you letter and that item of business is now closed.*
 - Strong Solutions; Jack Strong. *No actions to report. Item remains in pending status regarding business owner interest in light rail along East Sprague (Don).*
6. New Business
 - Spokane Valley Park & Rec; Mike Stone. *Don relayed a discussion he had at a public meeting regarding planning for a pedestrian / bike pathway along the county right-of-way in Spokane Valley. Both parties are aware of future requirements for light rail that need to be considered in the placement geometry to avoid future conflicts.*
 - STA / SRTC Public Hearing; Lincoln Center, April 2013. *KC provided feedback on the STA meeting at the Spokane Valley Mall and all members were encouraged to attend the above joint meeting regarding long-range regional transportation planning.*
 - Digital Projector; Research & Purchase. *KC led discussion of his research of the cost and features of a projector that could be used to support meetings and future public presentations. Two examples offered were; 1) NEC NP-VE281 at around \$360, plus tax, and 2) Epson SVGA 3LCD at \$350, plus tax.*
 - *Action: Phyllis Holmes moved to authorize KC up to \$500 to purchase an appropriate projector "system" on behalf of the organization's public outreach efforts. The motion was seconded by Keith Lamotte and was approved by unanimous vote. No timeline was imposed.*
7. Public Relations and Outreach (Trudy Raymond)
 - *Reported on development plans for the final phases of Riverstone in Coeur d'Alene, including the high-profile west entrance along Seltice Way. Kootenai County and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, which together operate the Citylink bus system, plan to build a transit center on four acres at the west corner of Seltice Way and Riverstone Drive.*
 - *Reported on the availability of federal grant funding that perhaps could be used to support advocacy of light rail for the Spokane region.*
 - *Reported on a 23 Mar '13 news story by Spokane reporter, Matt Rodgers, commenting on the Salt Lake City light rail system while covering the Gonzaga Bulldogs at the NCAA regional basketball tournament.*

8. Comments by General Membership

- *Bill Goetter inquired as to whether anyone has contacted Governor Inslee's office to solicit and/or remind him of his previously stated support for light rail. Phyllis Holmes indicated that she had done that via separate letter.*

9. Comments by Board Members

- *Keith Lamotte provided a copy of an article written by Michael Barone, 1 Apr 13, titled "Why Freight Rail Pays and Passenger Trains Flunk". The basic premise of the article is the recovery of freight rail profitability after the U.S. Government deregulated it. Unfortunately, the government is going the opposite direction with passenger rail, notably mandating that Amtrak provide service in 46 states regardless of profitability. The full article can be found at the following website address:
http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/political_commentary/commentary_by_michael_barone/why_freight_rail_pays_and_passenger_trains_flunk.*
- *Phyllis Holmes provided an article outlining City of Spokane opposition to expansion of the Urban Growth Area for Spokane County. She commented that it is quite contrary to the goals and benefits associated with urban light rail. She also indicated that she had discussed the issue with Council President Stuckart and found it interesting that Mayor Condon sided with Council Members Stuckart, Snyder, and Waldref in opposing the County's actions.*
- *Dick Raymond reported three enhancements to our web site resulting from the new host:*
 - *1) The ability to send a master list to all friends for "self removal and/or corrections"*
 - *2) The ability to now provide "one-way" informational emails to all registered members*
 - *2) The ability to tailor email lists to certain criteria, such as previous contributors, etc.*

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting: 13 May '13/6:00 pm at the regular location; Knox Presbyterian Church.