



Board Minutes

Meeting Time: 13 May '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, Keith Lamotte, and Nick Nickoloff.*

Friends: *Mary Lee Nickoloff, and Trudy Raymond.*

Agenda Notes

1. Chair's Call to Order (D. Cain) at 6:10 pm;

- **Administrative Items**

Don provided an updated status on the pending appointment of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, currently anticipated to be the Mayor of Charlotte, NC, Anthony Foxx.

- **"In the News" Items**

1) "The Charlotte Observer" reported in Feb '13 that the N.C. Governor Pat McCrory (R) disagrees with Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx (D) regarding a proposed use of local property tax revenue for an electric streetcar. The Governor feels it directly competes with a planned light rail extension and thereby may jeopardize state matching funds by sending a signal that the city has plenty of capital funds for other projects. Interesting to note is a Republican Governor defending light rail against a Democratic Mayor, who may become U.S. Sec of Transportation. Ref: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2013/02/01/3825774/city-mccrory-threatens-light-rail.html>

2. **Vice President's Report:** (D. Raymond)

- *The website has experienced 21,773 contact hits from inception to date with 250 hits occurring since our last meeting in April 2013.*

- *Dick continues his efforts to enable a master email list be available for "self correction or elimination" by all friends of InlandRail.org. A letter will be drafted by Don, Dick, and KC introducing the new features for initial release to all members. (Open).*

3. **Treasurer's Report:** (N. Nickoloff)

- *The organization's account balance stands at \$2,918.01 with all bills paid. He noted there is an open Board authorization for expenditure of up to \$500.00 toward the purchase of a projector for presentations.*
- *An application for booth space for InlandRail.org during the upcoming Liberty Lake Days has been submitted. The Board has previously committed to participation in this event as an opportunity for further outreach. It has been considered successful during the last two years.*

4. **Secretary's Report:** (K.C. Traver)

- *Minutes from previous Board Meeting*
Action: *Nick Nickoloff moved to approve the minutes from the 8 Apr '13 meeting and Keith Lamotte seconded the motion. The minutes were **approved** by unanimous vote of the members present. Dick will post the minutes to the InlandRail.org website.*

5. **Old Business**

- *1) Jack Strong; Strong Solutions: Don reported that he has been unable to contact the East Sprague business owner to date due to mutual schedule conflicts. (Open).*
- *2) STA Update: KC provided an update on his participation in the Corridor Advisory Panel for the South Valley Corridor. He reported the committee has completed their work and will recommend the following actions to the STA Board; 1) Light rail continue planning for implementation within 30 years, 2) Modern electric service be considered from Spokane to the Valley Transit Center over the next 10-15 years in a manner that doesn't conflict with future light rail, and 2) conventional express bus service be extended to CdA as a pilot project in the short term. All four CAPs will report the results of their discussions at the May STA Board meeting. (Open)*
- *3) Purchase of a projector for future presentations: KC reported he was researching the best solution for the Board and would be making a purchase before the next meeting. Dick R. requested that it also possess capability via HDMI for better video with sound. (Open)*

6. **New Business**

- *No New Business.*

7. **Public Relations and Outreach** (Trudy Raymond)

- *Nothing to Report.*

8. **Comments by General Membership**

- *None.*

9. **Comments by Board Members**

- *Keith Lamotte initiated discussion of the status of the proposed Columbia River Crossing with particular emphasis on whether it would be designed to accommodate light rail. There is significant political debate among Oregon and Washington elected officials regarding the status of funds required for this project.*
- *Phyllis Holmes initiated discussion regarding potential light rail service to the West Plains communities. She also noted an upcoming open house for public input to long range plans for the Spokane airport. Finally, she reported that a west side paper indicated that Seattle has committed to being carbon neutral by 2050 and that is favorable to light rail.*
- *Dick Raymond informed the Board that the Monroe Street Bridge rehabilitation project included post-tensioning ducts to allow for future lane additions and/or light rail.*

- *Don Cain inquired about whether there have been plans for lowering the under-crossings beneath the I-90 viaduct. That also led to a discussion of the status of “Bridging the Valley” and whether it can be completed via leverage or mitigation from the increased traffic from future coal trains.*

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting: 10 Jun '13/6:00 pm at the regular location; Knox Presbyterian Church.