



## Board Minutes

Monday, 8 December 2014 / 3:00 p.m.  
Knox Presbyterian Church  
806 W. Knox Ave, Spokane WA 99205

### AGENDA / MINUTES

#### Attendees

Board: Dick Raymond, Nick Nickoloff, Phyllis Holmes, and K.C. Traver.

Guests: Mary Lee Nickoloff, Bob Voris, and Trudy Raymond.

#### 1) Chair's Opening:

- Call to Order

- Dick Raymond, Vice President, convened the meeting at 3:15 pm in the absence of the Chair who was unable to attend.

- Welcome Friends and Guests

- Nothing to note.

#### 2) Vice President's Report: Dick Raymond

- The website has experienced **27,186** contact hits from inception to date with 288 occurring since the last regular meeting, Nov '14.

#### 3) Treasurer's Report: Nick Nickoloff

- The organization's account balance remains at **\$2,011.47** with no change from the last month and no bills payable.

#### 4) Secretary's Report: KC Traver

- Approval of Nov '14 minutes

- **Action:** The minutes were **approved**, as distributed, by consensus in a motion made by Phyllis Holmes and seconded by Nick Nickoloff.

- Transportation News

- Nothing reported.

#### 5) Old Business:

- Vacant Board Positions; Larry Swartz (**Closed**)

- **Action:** Prior discussions with Larry indicated that he is unable to attend regularly. He reiterated his support but concurs with vacating his board position. His position was therefore **vacated** through a motion by KC Traver, seconded by Phyllis Holmes.

- Proposed April Gathering with Members & Friends (**Open**)

- Planning for this event is recognized as dependent on the outcome of a possible transit funding referendum by the Spokane Transit Authority which could result in a major change in direction for regional transit and InlandRail.org.

#### 6) New business:

- STA Funding Referendum (**Open**)

- *KC highlighted six previous years of financial budget projections publicly released by STA that indicated dramatic decreases in available funds. He then contrasted that information with publicly available actual end-of-year balances over the same period that reflected increasing cash reserves. The ending balance sheets for 2014 indicate approximately \$53 million in cash reserves, an operating budget surplus, and increasing sales tax revenues due to the improving economy. Despite this, the STA Board is considering a ballot referendum for a 50% increase in sales tax authority projected to generate \$300 million over a ten-year period based on lower growth and higher cost projections than have historically occurred. The major justification is the proposed “Moving Forward Plan” which includes NO planning for any future rail transit. Furthermore, its only reference to light rail was a single sentence indicating more buses represent the same capacity and better service to the customer than light rail. An InlandRail.org response was decided as follows:*

- *The Board supports public transit but feels a lesser sales tax increase of 0.1% to 0.2% would be more prudent at this time.*
- *The Board wishes to express disappointment with the proposed transit development plan with regard to the exclusion of planning for future rail transit, particularly as it applies to the “South Valley Corridor”.*
- *The Board encourages representatives of the Executive Committee to meet with STA staff and STA Board members to validate the apparent discrepancies with published financial data as justification for the pending ballot measure.*
- *The Board authorizes and encourages members to testify on behalf of InlandRail.org at STA’s scheduled 18 Dec 14 public hearing.*

7) Public Relations & Outreach: Trudy Raymond

- *Trudy provided a 21 Nov 14 article from “The Spokesman Review” highlighting the proposed cross-town electric bus trolley project known as the “Central City Line”.*
- *Trudy provided a 27 Nov 14 article from “The Spokesman Review, South Voice” that highlighted features of the “STA Moving Forward Plan” which is the basis for their proposed sales tax increase to be considered at the December Board of Directors meeting.*
- *Trudy advised the Board on the potential for positive public outreach available through a “Business to Business” networking event scheduled for 15 Jan 15 in the Bank of America Building Lobby.*

8) Friend comments:

- *None provided.*

9) Board comments:

- *None provided.*

*The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:27 p.m.*

Next regular meeting: **12 Jan '15 / 3:00 p.m.** at the Knox Presbyterian Church.