



GUAM REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Governor
Joshua F. Tenorio, Lieutenant Governor
Celestin C. Babauta, Interim Executive Manager



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Department of Public Works CIP Conference Room

August 22, 2019 11:00 am

Agenda

- I. Meeting Called to Order**
- II. Introductions**
- III. Election of Temporary Chairperson**
- IV. Discussion – Committee Assignment: Chairperson**
- V. Executive Manager's Report**
- VI. Board of Directors Handbook**
- VII. Other Discussion**
- VIII. Public Comment – 3 minutes per individual**
- IX. Adjournment**



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Board of Directors Regular Meeting

MINUTES

Thursday, August 22, 2019 at 11:00am

CIP Conference Room, Bldg. B, DPW Compound, Upper Tumon

I. Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Celestin Babauta, Interim Executive Manager.

II. Introductions/Roll Call:

Mr. Babauta introduced and welcomed newly appointed Board of Directors.

Roll Call:

The GRTA Board Members who were present are Director Evelyn Duenas, Director David Arentz, Director John Leon Guerrero, Director Rudy Iriarte.

III. Election of Temporary Chairperson:

Interim Executive Manager Babauta suggested that Board Members elect temporary Chairperson until Board Members decide when to elect permanent officers. It'll give Board Members an opportunity to know each other so that they will be able to objectively select who will be their permanent officers.

The Board Members went into Executive Session to elect the Temporary Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. During the Executive Session Board Members elected Evelyn Duenas to be their Temporary Chairperson and John Leon Guerrero as Temporary Vice Chairperson.

IV. Committee Assignments:

The Interim Executive Manager also recommended that Board Members create a committee chairperson to oversee vital functions and resources of GRTA. They are as follows: budget, finance, procurement, vehicles, bus operations, paratransit, facilities, and more. Such committees may consist budget/finance/procurement, facilities, vehicles, bus operations, safety/security. He asked Board Members to channel all inquiries they have and information that they desire to him instead of dealing directly to the staff to prevent any confusions. Mr. Babauta said that he has assignments for all staff members to perform and directing all Board Members requests to him will minimize such confusions.

Director Rudy Iriarte reiterated that although he is a new GRTA Board Member that leadership and management issues be handled by the Interim Executive Manager specifically personnel matters. Board Member should stay within the realm of policy related issues.



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Director John Leon Guerrero mentioned that his understanding of the board is that Board Members are also involve on matters regarding management. Furthermore, Board Members have to look at the operation of the agency as a whole and that includes employees and the Interim Executive Manager. Director Leon Guerrero also indicated that they report to the Governor and in charge of the GRTA.

Madam Chairperson Duenas and Director Iriarte again further noted that Board Members stay within the confines of policy making and personnel matters must be brought up to the Interim Executive Manager.

V. Executive Manager's Report:

Interim Executive Manager Celestin Babauta presented the Board members with an overview of the state of GRTA since January 2019 until August 2019. He stated that GRTA was created October 2019 and upon arrival 7 out of 23 buses and vans were operational. Currently, GRTA has at least 14 buses and vans operational, submitted procurement packages to purchase 10 buses and the One Call – One Click transportation management system in the amount of \$1.25 million, had expiration date for encumbrance of \$1,237,500 extended September 2020 and 2023, working on Request for Proposal for architectural and engineering design of GRTA facility, programed \$2.5 million for construction of GRTA building, and purchase of fist electric buses in Guam, GRTA website re-accomplished, OPA audit being addressed, coordinated with the Federal Transit Administration to combine release of \$2018/2019 in the amount of \$3.9 million. Mr. Babauta credited the diligence of the GRTA staff in such achievements.

VI. Board of Directors Handbook:

Board Members were issued the handbook to include Mr. Alejo Sablan who is awaiting his confirmation from the Guam Legislature to be a member of the GRTA Board. Mr. Babauta explained to the Members that within Handbook are valuable information for board members to reference. He further noted that they contact Mr. Babauta should they wish to have a work session to thoroughly cover any subject area.

VII. Other Discussion:

Madam Chairperson introduced Mr. Alejo Sablan who is awaiting confirmation by the 35th Guam Legislature to be member of the GRTA Board of Directors.

Interim Executive Manager Babauta ask the Board Members to arrive at an agreement on when and what time will be the Boards meeting schedule.

He also ask GRTA staff to provide stipend forms for Board Members to fill out for their stipend payments.



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VIII. **Public Comment – 3 minutes per individual:**

Ms. Ginger Porter commented that GRTA is in violation of accessibility policy of the FTA Office of Civil Rights. She further noted that GRTA is not fully accessible for people with disabilities. There's a sign that says you must call, but if a rider does not have a phone or does not have minutes, they can't access your office. The dilemma will be a problem with your state management review and also FTA's Office of Civil Rights.

She also remarked that the policy allowing paratransit riders with medical appointment can call 2 weeks in advance to reserve ride on GRTA paratransit vehicles which is in violation of present board policy. The policy states that there is no priority in scheduling paratransit rides.

Additionally, the Office of Inspector General audit report of 1997 mentioned illegalities in procurement and contracts that continue to exist and must be addressed by the present Board.

Mr. Mark Martinez clearly articulated that he has been a regular rider for quite a while. He said that drivers are not getting the break mandated by law and the statute must be followed. Mr. Martinez also mentioned that there's a Guam law specifying that five hours of work, individual is entitled to take a thirty-minute break. He suggested that GRTA staff and Board Members take a ride throughout a bus shift and experience first-hand what a driver have to go through. Mr. Martinez further stated that two Wednesday's in November of 2017, at the legislature oversight hearings Senator Regine Biscoe Lee said the only way she realized the difficulties of the GRTA transit is when she rode the bus to work and back, the bus was very late. She noticed riders were upset, and the driver was showing signs of exhaustion. He strongly recommended that drivers be given required break period.

IX. **Adjournment:**

Being that there were no further discussions, Director Rudy Iriarte made a motion to adjourn and Director David Arentz second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.