

TTA January Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The twenty-first of January, 2020



TTA's mission is to support the needs of Texas public transportation systems through statewide advocacy and education.

These are the minutes of the TTA January Board of Directors Meeting held on the twenty-first of January, 2020, at The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos St, Austin, TX 78701. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by President Mario Delgado with the following board members present:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mario Delgado, President
Jorge Cruz-Aedo, President-Elect
Sarah Hidalgo-Cook, VP Rural
Norma Zamora, Secretary/Treasurer
Tom Logan, VP Small Urban
Allen E. Hunter, TTA Executive Director
Eron Linn for Gary Thomas
Chris Mandrell
Robert Gil
J.R. Salazar (Call-in)
Lylene Springer
Hugh Harrison
Jessie Arriaga (Call-In)
Irene Villa for Jay Banasiak (call-in)
Vince Huerta (Call-in)
Leroy Alloway for Jeff Arndt (Call-in)
Jeff Johnson
John Hendrickson

Not in Attendance:

Tom Jasien

Guest:

Shawn Powers
Ben Herr
Maribel Contreras
Shannon Garrett

1. Welcome & Roll Call

Mario Delgado, President, welcomed everyone and began the meeting at 1:36 pm. Allen Hunter, Executive Director, called role, and a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November Board Meeting

Mario Delgado asked if there were any changes or discussion about the November meeting minutes.

There was no discussion. Eron Linn made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Tom Logan, all were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. President Update (Meeting with Eric Gleason on Conference/Roadeo, Est. Awards Committee, Consider dates for Legislative meeting next Feb.)

Mario Delgado discussed a meeting he and Allen had with Eric Gleason and received feedback about the conference training and budget. TxDOT agreed to fund several training classes at the conference, including some topics by Easter Seals. Mario stated he would like to establish a committee for the TTA 2020 awards. The

committee will gather all the submissions, review them, and pick winners. Hugh, Lylene, Eron, and Chris volunteered to be on the award committee. The cutoff for award submission is the twenty-eighth of February. Mario thanked Tom Logan from LRGV, who agreed to be the pass-through agency for this year's rodeo and conference. He also thanked Eron and Allen for working on the upcoming legislative seminar. One of the primary goals of the all-member meeting will be to distribute information about the upcoming Rodeo and Conference and to get the current draft bylaws passed.

Mario reviewed the rodeo and conference budget worksheet with the Board, which detailed the in-kind contributions, TxDOT's portion, and finally, TTA's expense. The total anticipated funding from TxDOT is a little over \$43,000 for the rodeo and the conference. In the past, there would be more intensive training sessions that might last two to three days, but this year Easter Seals will do four-hour sessions on ADA and Succession Planning. TxDOT will cover the fee for the Easter Seals Training under this new partnership. TxDOT also agreed to pay for scholarships for people attending Easter Seals training.

4. Executive Director Update

Allen asked the Board to select three potential dates for the next year's legislative session. The twenty-third, ninth, and seventeenth of February 2021 were selected. Allen stated that he would work with Wade Long (TTA's Lobbyist) to see which dates will work the best and get back with the Board.

Allen thanked everyone for an eventful last four months and stated on the fourth of December, FTA hosted a retirement celebration for Bob Patrick, the FTA Region Six Administrator in Fort Worth. TTA honored Mr. Patrick with a lifetime membership to TTA.

Allen shared that the phone report from the November Board meeting indicated that there were close to twenty people on the call, with the majority not announcing themselves. As a result, the call-in number will no longer be posted on the board agendas and will be sent out by email and made available by request.

Allen also shared that seventy-eight people have RSVP'd for the evening reception. He passed around the list of people that had RSVP'd and stated they anticipated around forty. \$3,500 was raised in sponsorships to help offset the costs. There is no way of knowing what the numbers will be, but we expect a good turnout.

The website traffic is up to about 915 visitors per month, and pageviews are over 2,070. This is a substantial increase from where things started in August.

The new members are Alliance Transportation and Safe Start; both have paid their dues. He stated the Board needs to vote to accept their membership. There was a motion from Norma to accept their membership, Jeff seconded, all were in favor, and the motion passed. Allen then noted two rural agencies that have recently rejoined, Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission and the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. Also, there were several membership renewals including Corpus Christi, VIA, Citibus, Tyler, Waco Transit, CARR, Real Inc., South Padre, and West Texas.

Allen stated he had not received dues from the LRGV, Brownsville, East Texas Council of Governments, Houston Metro and DART. However, he has talked to most everyone, and he knows payments are coming. Vince Huerta stated the payment from ETCOG was cut last week and should be in any day now.

5. Finance Committee Update

Norma thanked Allen for coming out to help get everything reconciled, and as of December, everything is balanced. The checking account ending balance for December was \$187,130.05, and the ending balance for the savings account was \$187,415.85. She added they are doing well.

Allen added that TTA was saving some money in several areas; for example, Mario was able to acquire the event planner at \$12,000 instead of \$20,000, which is what was in the budget. Also, with TxDOT's financial support for this year's conference, it will be very helpful to the budget.

Eron stated that the financial policy indicates that money in the checking account over a certain threshold (anything over three months' worth of expenses) should be moved into the Savings or invested. Norma stated she would get with Allen and make the transfer.

Mario asked for a motion to approve the financial report, Hugh Harrison made a motion, Tom Logan seconded, and all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Education and Events Committee Update

Jeff stated that based upon conversations with TxDOT, they are willing to support regional roadeos. However, there weren't any regional roadeos this year due to the amount of effort and shortage of knowledgeable personnel that can assist in setting up a course. We must get more people involved that can set up a course. Setting up the course in McAllen is an excellent training opportunity to educate some additional staff. Tony Austin and Allen Hunter will be going to McAllen to assist McAllen with the course set up on February 3rd and 4th. Mario stated that his people have attended but have never actually set up a course. Therefore, he has committed to provide all of the necessary resources to make this happen. Allen shared there was a LaQuinta that was less than \$100 a night and Embassy Suites for \$120 a night. He will share that information with anyone interested. Allen also mentioned that the event coordinator has moved from McAllen to Austin, and that has raised some concerns.

Jeff stated that once we get through this year's conference, we will discuss regional training. Allen added that TxDOT has agreed to support the majority of what they asked for, but they cannot pay for keynote speakers. They didn't feel that Gil Penalosa covered enough for the rural areas to be able to use RTAP funds because he covers more metro topics. We are looking at other ways we can afford him because his fee is around \$8,500. Jeff added that we need to talk to agencies and let them know to take advantage of the TxDOT scholarships.

Jeff also mentioned that Via has most of the modules and what they don't have we can get in Corpus.

Allen stated they couldn't expense any funds that are covered by TxDOT until TxDOT takes it to the commission, which they hope to do on the 30th of this month.

Allen stated that there had been a lot of excitement about the fishing tournament, but no one has registered at this time. South Padre is estimating 15 to 20 boats. He added that they would continue to promote it in hopes of getting more people to register. The fee to sponsor a boat is \$1,000 and \$125 per person. There can be four people per boat.

Jessie stated he talked to some people from Hanover and shared that they are interested in sponsoring a couple of boats. \$750 per boat. This cost would include four spots and includes everything needed except a fishing license. \$500 will cover the cost of a boat, guide, and gear.

Mario stated he thinks \$1,000 is a little steep and that he, Jessie, and Allen would come up with a reasonable amount in the ballpark of \$750 to ensure that we cover the costs. Maybe we can work it in the first week of February when we are all there.

Jeff stated they are looking at Austin for the 2022 conference and then Houston for 2023. He thinks after Corpus; they need to talk about location in Austin. So, it will be McAllen, Corpus, Austin, then possibly Houston. SWTA has expressed interest in partnering in Austin for 2022

Mario asked for a motion to approve; Chris made a motion, seconded by Norma, all were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

There was a brief discussion regarding CEUs. Allen stated that this is something that he will investigate.

7. New Business

There were no new business items.

8. Adjourn

There were no other items, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 pm.

_____ made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the January 21, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting, which was seconded by _____, and was approved unanimously. The minutes were approved by the Board of Directors on March 5, 2020.

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing pages constituent the full, true, and correct record of all proceedings and official records of the Texas Transit Association at its Board of Directors Meeting.

Approved: _____
Mario Delgado, President, TTA

Date Signed