

Ross Valley Yellow Bus Transportation Services

Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement

Joint Committee

April 2, 2019

7:00 PM

**San Anselmo Town Council Chambers, 525 San Anselmo Ave, San Anselmo, CA
94960**

I. 7:00 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

JEPA Board members:

Town of San Anselmo: Brian Colbert, Dave Donery

Town of Fairfax: Garrett Toy

County of Marin: Katie Rice, Nancy Vernon

Ross Valley School District: Wesley Pratt, Rick Bagley

Absent: Renee Goddard

II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No one spoke during this time.

III. JEPA BUSINESS MEETING

Item	Presenter	Action
A. Accept March 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes	Chairperson	Approve
M/S, Rick Bagley, Garrett Toy to accept the March 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Ayes: Brian Colbert, Dave Donery, Garrett Toy, Katie Rice, Nancy Vernon, Wesley Pratt, Rick Bagley Absent: Renee Goddard		
B. Recommend Marin Transit sign Measure AA funding agreement	Marin Transit	Approve

Nancy Whelan, Marin Transit, presented the report and confirmed they made the recommended changes to the agreement from the previous meeting.

Item**Presenter****Action**

M/S, Katie Rice, Dave Donery to recommend Marin Transit sign Measure AA funding agreement. Ayes: Brian Colbert, Dave Donery, Garrett Toy, Katie Rice, Nancy Vernon, Wesley Pratt, Rick Bagley Absent: Renee Goddard

C. Review Survey Results

Marin Transit

Discussion

Kelly Zalewski, Marin Transit, made a presentation regarding survey results from current bus pass holders. Zalewski stated forty-eight percent of bus pass holders responded to the survey and sixty percent of the respondents did not know how the program was funded. When respondents were posed the choice of paying twenty-five percent more or only five percent more with longer wait times; fifty-four percent of the respondents stated they would prefer to pay twenty-five percent more for the same service.

Brian Colbert asked Marin Transit if they had asked whether there was an alternative to the bus. Katie Rice wanted to know if the bus pass holders were aware there is a supplemental school service on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Zalewski stated in the non-pass holder survey, sixty six percent were using the family car. The survey showed that cost of the bus pass and location of home relative to school were important factors.

Zalewski stated that more than half of the 5th grade parent non-bus pass holder respondents were likely to buy a pass at \$980 and they found that reducing the price by \$140 would not affect parents' likeliness to purchase a bus pass.

Steve Lamb, San Anselmo resident, wanted to know how many Wade Thomas students would graduate and go to White Hill and how many routes serve that community. Lamb felt that focusing on the per day price would be a valuable piece of information to give to the community.

The JEPA thanked staff for their work on the survey.

Brian Colbert wanted to know if Marin Transit would be doing the survey every year. Whelan stated they would come back to the JEPA and ask yearly if they would like for a survey to be done.

Item	Presenter	Action
D. Review pass pricing policies	Marin Transit	Discussion

Kelly Zalewski presented the staff report. Zalewski stated there are two payment options: to pay in full at \$395 annually or 10 monthly payments of \$39.50 + \$4.

Zalewski stated when they went through the historical data, they found the enrollment for full price passes were stable, but over time there had been a dramatic reduction in the sales for reduced price passes. They felt as if the White Hill reduction correlated with an increase in the usage of the free Youth Transit bus pass program also provided there.

Zalewski stated there is no waitlist for buses in the morning, but there is a waitlist for bus routes in the afternoon. Zalewski stated the waitlist in the afternoon was an expression of unmet preference, not of actual need. Basically, forty kids prefer a different route in the afternoon, instead of the route they are assigned to.

E. 2019-20 Draft Budget Scenarios	Marin Transit	Discussion
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Nancy Whelan, Marin Transit, presented the budget scenarios. Kelly Zalewski stated the pass price will be \$530 for a one-way pass with \$30,000 coming from the Towns. Zalewski also commented that they would need to see how much is coming from the County, because it will affect the number. Katie Rice confirmed to get the pass price under \$500 is to find another \$45,000 from somewhere. Whelan stated yes.

Whelan stated that it may be necessary to cut buses and redistribute the stops to other routes. Katie Rice asked if there could be two late buses. Zalewski stated in the preliminary planning, there is an idea to get rid of the express bus to the HUB. Zalewski added that school staff may not be able to stay that late for extra late buses. Whelan stated that basically, the buses will have more stops which means longer rides.

Katie Rice explained the County is determining how much each bus program receives by formula and it ends up being \$78,000 for the Ross Valley. Nancy Vernon clarified the next meeting is when the JEPA would make a recommendation for pass prices.

Garrett Toy clarified to get the pass price to \$495, each Town would need to ask for \$45,000. Katie Rice stated Measure A money can be used. Brian Colbert stated it is a larger issue and broader conversation, because of the sensitivity of use of Measure A money. Colbert was interested in the long-term trend. Garrett Toy

Item	Presenter	Action
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stated this is unsustainable but will at least give everyone a one-year heads up. Katie Rice stated it is a very expensive service and wanted to know what the tipping point for a drop off in bus pass sales is. Garrett Toy stated then there will be more cars on the road.

Katie Rice was interested in going with this scenario and waiting to see where the County gets to with the amount they can allocate towards the program. Brian Colbert stated if something is unsustainable then it is unsustainable. Colbert wanted to know what the alternatives are that are private. Katie Rice stated at the end, it is market driven and we are now seeing the true cost of the program. Rice stated we are getting to a place where it is real. David Donery stated the program is a bargain and the per day cost is small. Brian Colbert felt that someone will figure out a privatization answer. David Donery made the suggestion to move forward with the existing town requests, see what other money may be available and make a decision at the next meeting. Donery stated at least they know the bus pass could be \$530.

G. Set date, time, location and agenda topics for next meeting	Chairperson	Approve
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There was consensus from the JEPA that the next meeting would be on April 22, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

IV. **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

There were no reports.

V. **8:08 PM ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla Kacmar
Town Clerk