

Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee  
**General Committee Meeting #11**  
**MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

I. Call To Order

A. **Zoom Meeting Protocols**

Facilitator Richard France called the meeting to order. Facilitator Thomson Dryjanski announced Spanish and American Sign Language interpreter services would be available throughout the meeting.

B. **Agenda**

Facilitator France reviewed the agenda for the day.

C. **Roll Call**

**Present:** Ashley Ajayi, Andrea Urmanita, Carrie Madden, Charles Hammerstein, Chauncey Smith, Clarence Davis, Constance Strickland, Darryl Goodus, Esteban Garcia, Florence Annang, Glenda Murrell, James Wen, Jessica Kellogg, Jose Raigoza, Maricela De Rivera, Mohammad Tajsar, Dr. Sabrina Howard, Ma'ayan Dembo, Scarlett de Leon

**Absent:** Raul Gomez, Fabian Gallardo, Mohammad Tajsar

D. **Update of PSAC Membership**

E. **Approval of 09/01 meeting minutes**

A vote was taken to approve the meeting minutes for the September 01, 2021, meeting.  
 Minutes approved unanimously

II. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants. The following comments were shared:

- A. Commentator Lionel Mares asked what Metro is doing to increase security on platforms and rail lines. They relayed an experience on the subway last Saturday where a passenger was experiencing a mental health issue but did not have someone to go to for help. They also expressed an issue with trash and passengers not wearing masks.
- a. Metro Staff Aaron Weinstein shared that Metro is launching a new campaign around masks, smoking, and littering to ensure trains/buses are safe and clean for all riders.
  - b. Member Murrell also shared that younger staff have been out providing masks and hand sanitizer. There are also service staff during peak hours to make sure trains are mopped and free of trash.

III. Discussion

A. **Proposal to Update Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Report-out**

- a. France reviewed the proposal to change ad-hoc report-outs to a Q&A where members and the public can ask questions about what was discussed in the ad-hoc subcommittee.
- b. Member Smith proposed having a 1- to 2-minute summary before moving to questions and answers.

- i. Member Davis suggested any major decisions be highlighted during the summary.
  - ii. Member de Rivera also recommended a timer being used during the summary.
- c. Going forward, members agreed that the facilitator team would share a short summary, and then members would ask questions to ad-hoc committee members and the facilitator team.

## B. Committee Chairpersons Presentation & Nomination

Facilitator France provided context for the chairperson discussion and an overview of the three options available as part of the proposal. That proposal [can be found here](#). Option #1 refers to a permanently appointed co-chairs, option #2 is a rotating set of co-chairs, and option #3 is an executive committee.

- a. **Process of Selection:** Member Davis asked if a decision on the proposal needed to be made today.
  - i. France explained that although the chairpersons do not need to be voted on today, the expectation was to decide on the preferred model to use.
- b. Member de Rivera proposed also choosing the chairperson if time permitted.
- c. Member Davis asked if a list can be created of members interested in participating.
  - i. France confirmed that once a model is chosen, a running list of interested participants will be created.
- d. **Comments for Option 1:** Member de Rivera added that they are concerned about ensuring efficiency and consistency. She is in favor of having the chairperson serve until June 2022, believing there is a learning curve to the working process with facilitators and Metro staff.
- e. **Comments for Option 2:** Member Dembo shared that they support option 2 because it provides the most space for inclusivity.
  - i. Member Ajayi also advocated for option 2 because it is most in line with the spirit of PSAC.
  - ii. Member Annang shared that committee members will need to be responsive for the proposal to work. She supports option number 2 to ensure that the Metro board can hear how unique the voices of PSAC are.
  - iii. Member Smith is in support of the second option.
  - iv. Member Goodus feels most comfortable with option 2 and recommends having alternates in case someone is unable to attend during their term.
- f. **Comments for Option 3:** Member Wen asked for clarification on option 3, regarding the number of voting PSAC members and whether there is an automatic removal from the committee once members have served a term.
  - i. Facilitator France shared that member participation must be seven participants or fewer. He also shared that there wouldn't be an automatic removal after serving a term but that the goal of this model is to ensure participation by all interested members.
  - ii. Member Davis voiced his support for this model.
  - iii. Member Smith shared that the third option seems complex to them and might make PSAC less efficient.

- g. **Changing Communication Systems:** Member de Rivera is also concerned about changing the way Metro communicates with the public. She invited Member Annang to share her comments on this topic.
  - i. Member Annang shared the group should think of this leadership model as an opportunity to share out directly to Metro staff and the Metro Board. It would be a chance for the Metro Board to see the diversity of the committee.
- h. **No Leadership Structure:** Member Strickland shared that they do not agree with the chairperson proposal at all but could support option 2, if need be.
  - i. They feel that all voices in the committee should be represented in the decision-making process and having a chairperson might prohibit that.
  - ii. Member De Leon shared that they do not think the chair will have a leadership role that excludes the rest of the committee.
  - iii. Member Rivera reiterated that the chairperson would be an efficient way to get through administrative tasks.
  - iv. Member Strickland shared that they are not concerned about leadership but that having a chairperson is not in line conceptually with what the committee is trying to accomplish.
- i. **Continuation of PSAC:** Member Davis if PSAC terms will be extended once the term ends in June 2022. They also asked if it would be possible to extend the length of terms for committee members.
  - i. Metro Chief of Staff Englund asked for time to discuss with Metro Board and then report back.
- j. **How Co-Chairs Would Participate:** Member de Rivera shared a concern for timely organization around administrative tasks. She requested facilitators share how having a chairperson could help move things along
  - i. Facilitator France shared an example of the lack of consensus around a recent internal survey as a situation where having a chairperson would have helped decision-making.
    - 1. Member de Rivera expressed that it sounds like not having a chairperson is resulting in the committee having decisions made for them.
- k. **Using a Phone Tree:** Member Wen asked if a situation with using a phone tree between members to make decisions would be a violation of the Brown Act.
  - i. Facilitator France responded that the situation is likely to be a Brown Act violation.
- l. **Discussion Postponed:** Member Smith expressed that the conversations should be tabled to allow committee members more time to review the proposal.
- m. **Next Steps:** Facilitator France asked members to review the proposal again and come ready with a stance to the next steering committee meeting. He indicated that the facilitator team would circulate a survey as well.

#### IV. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants. The following comments were shared:

- A. Commentor Lionel Mares thanked staff for the opportunity for public engagement on the mission and values statements. He will be using the PSAC email to report issues. He urged Metro to issue agendas and meeting announcements via Twitter as well.
- B. Commentor Hedges expressed that the example given to contact board members via a phone tree would likely be considered serial communications and, thus, violate the Brown Act.

V. Adjournment

- A. Meeting adjourned at 6:33pm

VI. Next Steps

- A. The committee will reconvene on October 6<sup>th</sup>.