

**PRIVATE FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF REVIEW
MINUTES – August 8, 2007**

A. Call to Order: 1:33 p.m. by Chairman Yamasaki.

B. Roll Call / Sign-In

Roll Call:

Abma (P) Bauhs (P) Corona (P) Huddleston (P) Entler (*P)

Miller (P) Ochoa (P) Putman (A) Yamasaki (P)

*Steve Entler attended in place of Raye Miles

2. Others / Audience: The list of other attendees is available from the Revenue Bureau.

C. Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

D. Approval of Previous Minutes: The minutes of the June 13, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

E. Supervisor's Report:

Chairman Yamasaki announced that interviews for the Regulatory Program Administrator vacancy will take place next week. The final selection should occur shortly thereafter.

A letter went out from the Regulatory Section to the managers of local hotels. The letter outlined Portland's Town Car Regulations. It addressed the increased incidence of town cars operating in the city without required inspections and/or permits. Also mentioned was the practice of town cars encroaching on the city-designated taxi cab business. Chairman Yamasaki will work toward bringing members of the transportation and hospitality industries together in order to facilitate a dialogue where these issues can be discussed.

There are currently two applications for the Board's vacant Tourism seat. Butch Miller and Dawn Huddleston volunteered to join Dawn Yamasaki for the interview process.

F. Old Business

Shane Abma, the City Attorney, presented his research on regulations with regard to the proposed minimum fee for fares charged to credit cards. He stated that there was nothing to prohibit companies from adopting a policy that imposes an additional fee to cover credit card processing. The City would require that riders be fully informed of the fee structure prior to their contracting for service. There would also be a further requirement that companies provide some tangible information e.g. signage, with a disclaimer stating that the additional fee is not imposed by the City.

Dawn Huddleston introduced the topic of short fares at the Port. Drivers often wait for extended periods outside the terminal only to be frustrated by an unprofitable fare. They are considering a minimum charge for short fares e.g. terminal to airport hotels. It was mentioned that this problem may not be city-wide but is associated with the Port alone. Per Gail Bauh's suggestion, Dawn Huddleston agreed to research methods employed by Washington Medicaid transportation in hopes of discovering a workable solution.

With regard to the issue raised at the last meeting regarding the number of LPT plates currently in circulation, Chairman Yamasaki emailed those figures to all board members after the last meeting.

G. Standing Committee Reports

1. Company

Steve Entler reported that the Company Standing Committee did not meet last month.

2. Driver

Butch Miller reported that the drivers met last month. They discussed town cars that undercut prices imposed on taxis by City regulations. There is frustration that Parking Enforcement officers charged with enforcement are only on duty between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Many times taxi drivers observe town cars parked in taxi zones by hotels. They report that such cars often leave the scene when they see a PED officer approaching.

New Business

Al Ochoa recommended that the Board consider regulating limousines. He stated that regulation has citizen support. Dawn Huddleston asked how limousines would be differentiated from town cars for the purpose of regulation. The Portland City Council has not offered feedback on this topic according to Chairman Yamasaki. Shane Abma stated that regulation is often perceived by the public to be a "stamp-of-approval". Al Ochoa moved that the subject of limousine regulation be presented to the Company Standing Committee. Chairman Yamasaki recommended that an invitation-to-participate be extended to all the limousine companies. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Dionne Starr-Peace

Revenue Bureau, Regulatory Section