



CITY OF PORTLAND
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Regular Meeting
Private For-Hire Transportation Board
Minutes for July 24, 2013

Call to Order: at 1:45 by Kathleen Butler

Roll Call

Present: Ryan Hashagen, Steve Entler, Brenda Hiatt, Gail Bauhs, John Case, Jon Putman, Patrick Kramer, Christy Keller, Kathleen Butler, Frank Dufay, Ramon Corona, Al Ochoa, Kirk Foster, Tamara Kennedy-Hill, Tony Tabrizi, April Murchinson

Absent: Huggins

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

1. Agenda

Butler: There were two items incorrectly listed as number 5 on the agenda. The second number 5 should change to 6 and the numbers should ascend from there.

Motion by Corona to add item 1A for approval of the minutes and to amend the agenda making the second number 5 a 6, followed by 7 and 8.

Seconded by Case

Motion passed unanimously

1. a. Approval of previous Minutes

Kramer: The approval of the agenda from the March 27, 2013 and May 29, 2013 meetings were omitted from last agenda.

Foster: I would like to see my comments from the May 29th meeting regarding the proposed 12 hour rule change added to the minutes. I would like it noted that I was concerned about SAT drivers being forced to rush home without a break in order to get home within the 12-13 hours. This creates an additional safety hazard by forcing drivers to rush home, especially on the long out of town trips.

Motion by Putman to approve the minutes from March 27, 2013 and the addition to the minutes on May 29, 2013 adding Foster's concerns regarding the proposed 12 hour rule change and out of town trips by SAT drivers.

Seconded by Bauhs

An Equal Opportunity Employer

To help ensure equal access to programs, services and activities, the Office of Management & Finance will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities upon request.

Motion passed unanimously

2. Introductions

Butler: Tamara Kennedy-Hill from Travel Portland has joined the Board. She is officially seated today. Also, introducing Christy Keller, Regulatory Program Specialist, for the City of Portland, taking the minutes today.

3. Announcement: Upcoming Election for Non-Limousine-LPT Company Representative (executive sedan, shuttle, and tour company representative)

Kramer: Musafar Rashid previously held the seat for non-limousine LPT Company Representative. Elections will be held to replace this position on August 15, 2013 from 1:30-3:30 at the Revenue Bureau. The list of eligible self-nominees was read and the instructions on how and when to apply was read.

Butler: There is a time period between when the nomination period closes and when the election is held. The nomination period ends Thursday August 1st at 5:00pm. This nomination is not open to any non-motorized vehicle operators.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

5. Requests for Relief from the Moratorium

Giddy Up Taxi

Kramer: Mr. O'Conner understands that he is applying for a reservation permit, not a taxi permit, and he will need to change the name of his company so that it does not include the word taxi. He plans to provide scheduled service to pick up passengers at the airport and drive them to the mountain. The city recommends one permit, as the market is underserved.

John O'Conner stated his business is located in Rhododendron. He plans to pick up passengers at the airport several times a year and drive them back to Rhododendron or the Mt. Hood area. I need a permit from the City before obtaining a permit from the Port. I currently have 1 vehicle and serve the hotels and ski resorts on the mountain. I have a unique business because I drive a 4 wheel drive vehicle that allows me to serve the entire mountain, even in the winter months.

Several Board members noted that there are transportation services available to serve this market. Mr. O'Connor noted that when the weather is bad, only certain vehicles can serve that area.

Mr. O'Connor requires customers to make reservations at least 2 days in advance. He drives a new 2013 Kia 6 passenger 4-wheel drive vehicle.

Entler noted that the Rhododendron area is serviceable year round by taxis since Hwy 26 is sanded and de-iced on a regular basis.

Motion to accept the recommendation to approve one permit for reservation only by Corona
Seconded by Bauhs
Opposed: Tabrizi, Entler & Hiatt
The motion passed

Great Ride Towncar

Kramer: Great Ride Towncar is requesting one executive sedan permit for a late model Mercedes full size sprinter. This vehicle will be used primarily for large parties; currently the owner is forced to use two vehicles to serve large parties. The City is recommending one sedan permit be issued

Mohammad Yassin, owner of Great Ride Towncar: I currently have five permits. I was last issued a new permit four or five years ago. The sedan has a seating capacity of 14 passengers. I am currently operating this vehicle with a temporary permit issued by the City. I have been in business for 15 years.

Bauhs wanted to know if the number of permits requested today would keep the number of executive sedans under the moratorium.

Butler replied, "Yes. There are available permits in this category."

Several Board members voiced concerns about issuing permits for more vans, which may be acting as shuttles.

Motion by Corona to approve the application
Seconded by Putman
Opposed: Foster, Entler, Hiatt & Tabrizi
Ochosa abstained due to a conflict of interest
The motion passed

Butler: Does the Board wish to put forth a motion to approve the recommendations for the remaining companies requesting permits?

Tabrizi: I am concerned that there is not enough space at the airport for all of the reservation vehicles.

Murchinson: We do run out of space for reservation pick ups at the airport, but we have a place for the vehicles to standby until the customer has had a chance to pick up their luggage. There have been issues when vehicles don't check in at the back field and wait until there is space available.

Butler: in the future, we should discuss space at the airport.

Motion by Putnam to consider the recommendations for Prestige Limousine, Tesla Trips, Twilite Limousine & Tour Company and A1 Diamond Limousine & Towncar Service at one time.
Seconded by Bauhs

Opposed: Entler & Tabrizi
The motion passed

Discussion of the group of applications:

Kramer: The report has a typo stating that Tesla Tours is requesting two permits. The record should be amended to show the City recommends they be granted one permit, not two as it states.

Entler: I am concerned that the recommendations are based solely on the vehicle type.

Butler: The eco friendly aspect of the Tesla vehicle is an underserved luxury provider.

Entler: Does the permit go away if the company owner stops using the vehicle?

Kramer: Yes

Butler: Show of hands from Board members to consider all remaining recommendations for approval in one vote.

Motion by Case to approve the five recommended vehicle permits for Prestige Limousine, Tesla Trips, Twilight Limousine & Tour Company, A1 Diamond Limousine & Towncar Service
Seconded by Corona
Opposed: Hashagen, Hiatt, Entler & Trabizi
Ochosa abstained due to a conflict of interest
The motion passed
There was no discussion

BREAK

A break was taken from 3:00 to 3:17

Butler: Ghambar Mohammed, who was previously scheduled and was not on the list today, is here and would like to ask the Board if they are willing to hear his testimony. On the last round, the Board was considering an application for relief from the moratorium for Rose Shuttle. Island Coach has not been responsive to our requests for information and the company owner is currently out of the country. We would like the Board to consider his application for two shuttle permits today.

Kramer: Do you plan to operate under the name of Rose Shuttle?

Mohammed: Yes.

Tabrizi: Did you purchase two permits from Island Coach?

Mohammed: No

**Motion by Hiatt that the Board approve the request for two permits by Rose Shuttle
Seconded by Tabrizi
The motion passed unanimously**

LPT company requests that are recommended for denial:

- Alex Shuttle PDX
- Isis Towncar Company
- Joseph Nemr
- Mustafa Al-Nouri DBA: Snappy Shuttle Service Inc.
- The Cosmos Team
- Safe Airport Shuttle

Kramer: The companies that we recommended for denial did not provide any unique services.

**Motion by Putman to take all companies at one time for consideration of denial
concurrence with record of denial
Seconded: Tabrizi
The motion passed unanimously**

The Board decided that the applicants should be allowed 3 minutes each to state their case.

Alex Shuttle PDX

Alireza Lotfolahzadeh: I requested an additional permit for my business. After 7 years, my reservations have increased.

Ochosa: What is the amount of overflow business you have had to give away because of only having one permit?

Lotfolahzadeh: Some days, I have two or three requests and I have to give some away to other drivers.

Ochosa: Do you have any contracts with other companies or hotels?

Lotfolahzadeh: Yes, I have two contracts with other companies. I do not have any contracts with hotels.

Case: How many permits do you have now?

Lotfolahzadeh: I have one permit currently. I started Alex Shuttle in 2009. Before that I was a driver for Wind Shuttle. I was not permitted while driving for Wind Shuttle.

Isis Towncar

Wali Kanani: I currently have one permit and am requesting a new shuttle permit. I started this business in 2007. I have a lot of customers and sometimes I get requests to take 5-6 people at a time. I have to give these rides away to other service providers.

Joseph Nemr

Mr. Nemr: I applied for a shuttle permit to run a new business called PDXORShuttle.com. I currently provide reservation only service to customers found online via my website. I am also currently working for Island Coach as a contractor. I have been operating my own website for the last few months in order to see what kind of business would be available to me.

Butler: Are you using your own vehicle or an Island Coach vehicle?

Nemr: I am using a van owned by Island Coach.

Butler: Did you receive the rules that we gave you when you became permitted? How many trips a day are you running for Island Coach?

Nemr: Yes, I did receive the rules from the City. I am getting between 1 and 3 trips a day through Island coach. I am getting 2-3 rides a day through my own website, depending on how much I advertise.

Snappy Shuttle Service

Mustafa Al-Nouri: I have been working for Falcon for the last year. I wish to own my own company; I have a lot of clients. I hand out my business card to people and I have set up a website. My website is ready, but it is not online yet.

Tabrizi: Do you feel strongly a driver who has been working for only one year is eligible for a permit? Do you feel you will have enough business?

Al-Nouri: I have given my business card to a number of people, but I can't tell you what will be the outcome. I want to be given a chance to run my own business.

Hiatt: Does your business card say Snappy Shuttle or Falcon?

Al-Nouri: It says Snappy Shuttle.

Cosmos Team

Abraham Fofanh: I am here representing my uncle, Abraham Kamara, who owns the Cosmos Team. He is out of the state today. My uncle started a business in Michigan and it was very successful. He would like to start a company here. He is not currently working nor is he permitted by the City to drive in Portland.

Safe Airport Shuttle

No representatives were present today.

Hiatt: Is there a way we can separate Alex Shuttle from the others and look at his documentation for overflow?

Dufay: He was told to bring this documentation with him.

Motion by Putman to deny the applications for Alex Shuttle PDX, Isis Towncar Company, Joseph Nemr, Mustafa Al-Noura dba: Snappy Shuttle Service, Inc., The

**Cosmos Team and Safe Airport Shuttle
Seconded by Hiatt
Ochosa abstaining due to conflict of interest
The motion passed unanimously**

Broadway Cab

Raye Miles: Broadway Cab is requesting 30 additional permits. We provided many charts and graphs demonstrating our growth. Our SAT division has grown substantially because we were not able to obtain additional taxi permits over the last decade.

Butler: When the Board and city council approved additional taxi permits back in November the plan was to review the effect of that one year from that time. At that time, we stated that part of the solution may be to convert some of Broadway's SAT permits to taxi permits in order to solve the SAT-taxi problems.

Entler: The one year time period should start in April of 2013 and not November of 2012.

Hiatt: I don't believe any new taxi permits should be issued until the Board completes the company standards policy.

Kennedy-Hill: The feedback we are receiving is that there are not enough available cabs, especially in the downtown market. Surveys rank our city low because of the lack of availability of cabs in comparison to other cities, which are negatively impacting our visitor appeal.

Butler: We plan to have the new performance standards policy ready for council in early 2014.

Tabrizi: I think we should give the new cab companies time to get established before we issue any more new taxi permits.

Bauhs: I request that the Board consider making a decision on how many taxis/SATs are available and/or needed in the City of Portland on the top of its list.

Butler: Insurance for drivers, kitty regulation and SAT vehicles are all three very pressing issues for the Board.

**Motion by Entler to deny the application from Broadway Cab for 30 additional taxi permits
Seconded by Putman
Opposed by Murchinson
The motion passed**

Rainbow Cab Company, LLC

Leora Coleman-Fire: Rainbow Cab Company applied for 10-30 specialized permits. We wish to provide safe transportation for the LGBTQ community. Currently, Portland does not have a safe & non-discriminatory option for transportation for the LGBTQ community. We have asked for a range of permits as a way to begin marketing services to this community. This type of specialized service is currently being offered in other cities with

great success. We will accept any number of permits the Board will approve.

Butler: We expect all transportation providers permitted in the City to provide safe and non-discriminatory service to all populations. We ask that riders report these situations to us so that we can investigate and address any issues.

Kennedy-Hill: Recent studies have shown that Portland is a destination location that appeals to the LGBTQ community. If transportation problems exist for this group of individuals, that could be a problem.

Ochosa: I would recommend you consider an executive sedan permit in order to provide service to the LGBTQ community.

Motion by Putman to deny the application for 10-30 taxi permits by Rainbow Cab Company, LLC

Seconded by Tabrizi

The motion passed unanimously

PDX Yellow Cab Drivers Association LLC

There were no representatives from PDX Yellow Cab Drivers Association, LLC today.

Motion by Putman to deny the application for from PDX Yellow Cab Drivers Association, LLC

Seconded by Case

The motion passed unanimously

6. Discussion Item: Accessibility of downtown trolley shuttle tour service vehicles

Tabled to the next meeting.

7. Discussion Item: Requirement for the rear sticker on the LPT vehicles.

The Board considered the language as distributed. See attached.

Motion by Putman to accept the decal placement with the correction the City has proposed for the LPT vehicles.

Seconded by Case

The motion passed unanimously

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Putman

Seconded by Hashagen

The motion passed unanimously

No discussion followed

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday September 18, 2013. This meeting was subsequently rescheduled to Thursday, September 19, 2013.

Minutes submitted by:

Christine Keller, Regulatory Program Specialist