

Summary Minutes MARC Advisory Council Meeting  
Thursday March 20, 2008, 4:30 p.m.  
Hall of the States, Room 283  
444 North Capitol Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512

Attendees:

MARC Advisory Council:

Carol Oberdorfer, Brunswick – Present  
Chikwe Njoku, Penn & Camden – Present  
Christopher Field, Penn - Present  
David Frederick, Brunswick - Present  
Deborah Foster, Brunswick – Absent  
Evelyn Anderson, Brunswick – Absent  
Hameed Ahmed, Camden – Absent  
Josh Friedman - Camden – Present  
Juan Calvo, Penn – Absent  
Laurence Gross, Brunswick – Present  
Lynda Clarke, Penn – Present  
Makeda Scott - Penn - Present  
Mark Dysart – Brunswick – Present  
Rafael Guroian, Penn & Camden – Present  
Steve Chan, Penn – Present

Staff:

John Hovatter – Director of MARC Train and Commuter Bus Service  
Glenn Saffran, Acting Director of MARC Train & Commuter Bus Service  
Frank Fulton, Deputy Director of MARC Train & Commuter Bus Services  
Jim Knighton, MTA Director of External Affairs  
Ira Silverman – Director of Transit Operation Initiatives

Guests:

Michael Ditkoff – Internal Revenue Service

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM by Chairman Lynda Clarke.

Evelyn Anderson (Brunswick Line), Josh Friedman (Camden Line), Makeda Scott (Penn Line), and Mark Dysart (Brunswick Line) were introduced as new members of the MARC Riders Advisory Council.

John Hovatter was introduced as the new Director of MARC Train and Commuter Bus Service.

Ira Silverman was welcomed back to the Maryland Transit Administration as the new Director of Transit Operation Initiatives.

Rafi Guroian discussed recent problems with messaging and communications problems that have occurred on the email alert system. Among other incidents discussed were the derailment on February 7<sup>th</sup> in Union Station, and the recent trespassing and fatality on the Brunswick line.

John Hovatter, Director of MARC Train and Commuter Bus Service, mentioned that there were an average of 5000-6000 railroad fatalities per year.

Steve Chan reported problems with the announcement on the public address system. Directing passengers to go to "Track #1" was not meaningful to MARC passengers when the track numbers are not posted. Phone calls to 800-325-7245 at 4:50 AM only led to an answering machine. Suggestions were made that anyone calling that number at any time should be forwarded to a live MARC employee.

Rafi Guroian also talked about this year's annual meeting of the National Association of Railroad Passengers. This meeting was held on Saturday March 15, 2008 at 1 PM at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum. Simon Taylor, MTA Assistant Deputy Administrator for Transit Operations, made a presentation to about 80 attendees. Other speakers were Federal Railroad Administration Administrator Joseph H. Boardman and AMTRAK representatives.

Rafi Guroian also reported that he and Richard Solli, MTA Marketing Director, were working together to get model MARC train cars produced in time for the Christmas 2008 shopping season.

John Hovatter discussed some of the MTA's efforts to acquire replacement locomotives and passenger cars, and some of the challenges involved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 PM Thursday March 20, 2008.