
VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

CITY OF EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 8

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

MEMBERS

H. Naboulsi
L. Lubin
R. Clarke
C. Khehra
M. Pnaich
M. Fysh
C. Leahey

PRESENT

H. Naboulsi
L. Lubin
R. Clarke
C. Khehra

M. Fysh
C. Leahey

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Sharma
P. Fearon

Acting Secretary
Administrator

D. Campbell
Advisor (EPS)

1. Call to Order

The Vehicle For Hire Commission meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. Chairman welcomed Inspector Danielle Campbell from Edmonton Police Service as a non voting member in the Commission. He gave a brief introduction of Inspector Campbell and thanked her for her participation to the Vehicle For Hire Commission.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED LUBIN/KHEHRA

#1-08-09

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Fysh, Leahey

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED LEAHEY/FYSH

#2-08-09

That the minutes from the regular meeting held on July 8, 2009 be approved as amended, by adding the following approved motion.

MOVED LEAHEY/FYSH

#8-07-09

That all Committee Chairman take responsibility to invite all Committee members to every Committee meeting.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Fysh, Leahey

CARRIED

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Fysh, Leahey

CARRIED

4. Public Involvement

The following individuals requested to speak on agenda items;

Mr. Steve Alvanos
Mr. Malkiat Singh
Mr. Manjit S Mann

Mr. Alla Chebli
Mr. Balraj Manhas
Mr. Jatinder Deol

Mr. Paul Minhas
Mr. Phil Strong

Mr. Steve Alvanos made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Malkiat Singh made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Manjit S Mann made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Alla Chebli made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Balraj Manhas made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Jatinder Deol made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Paul Minhas made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Phil Strong made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

5. Business Arising

- Status of information gathered at July 7, 2009 Public Involvement session.

The Executive Committee is in the final stages of assimilating all the information presented by the industry stakeholders on July 7, 2009. The final draft will be distributed by the next meeting in September.

6. Reports from Commission

a. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is in the final stages of assimilating all the information presented by the industry on July 7, 2009. The final draft will be distributed by the next meeting in September.

The Executive Committee and the Administration arranged an informal meeting with Community Services Committee members and other City Councillors to keep them informed of the issues that are presently before the Commission.

Highlights of the discussion included:

- ❖ Commission's new Public Involvement processes.
- ❖ Carbon dioxide emission reduction strategies for taxis – compared to other jurisdictions and Council's view.
- ❖ Driver Training & Testing – what needs to be changed to keep Edmonton in an "industry best practices position".
- ❖ New electronic newsletter for the Commission.
- ❖ VFH Driver Superlicense concept. No common support.
- ❖ Taxi Vehicle licence to population ratio. 17:10,000 population.
- ❖ Limiting the number of taxi vehicle licenses to be held by any 1 person or company. Still under review.
- ❖ Reduced number of Limousines in service – 2007 (190) compared to 2009 (169).
- ❖ Age limitations for all Vehicles for Hire. E.g.: 5 year maximum.
- ❖ Options for reducing dead heading – International Airport to City Trips.
- ❖ Capital Region Operational and Licensing issues – solutions?
- ❖ Commission 2010 Operational Budget.
- ❖ Researching how other jurisdictions manage overall industry Regulations – promoting industry best practices for City Council approval.

A meeting was arranged with Ground Transportation Representatives from the International Airport. On July 16, 2009 the Commission Chairman and the Chief Livery Officer met with Brett Bain and Myron Keehn to generally discuss the following matters:

- ❖ A future potential unique transportation service from Edmonton to the Airport.

- ❖ Long term Regional solutions for the Vehicle For Hire industry within the Capital Region.
- ❖ Building Public and Private Partnerships for "greening" initiatives.
- ❖ Operational problems created by existing contracts.

MOVED LEAHEY/FYSH

#4-08-09

That the status update report of the Executive Committee be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Fysh, Leahey

CARRIED

b. Operation & Program Committee

The Committee met with the officials of the Traffic Department and the Edmonton Police Service to develop guidelines for the dropping off and picking up of the patrons attending the Edmonton Indy. Brokers were called to a meeting and given maps outlining drop-off and pick-up locations as well as the operational times. After some discussion, the Brokers agreed that they would co-operate to the fullest and would have staff on hand at the two locations to facilitate the pick-up of passengers at the peak times.

In attendance were Yellow, Capital and 24-7. Co-Op taxis were not represented at the meeting.

City Officials reported that they were pleased with both the co-operation and service provided by the industry.

In addition, the Committee, one of our Inspectors and a liaison representative from the City met with officials from the Edmonton Folk Fest to finalize plans for the movement of patrons for this upcoming event. This year, the Folk Fest will be providing three security staff each night to assist with the orderly and efficient movement of taxis to and from the temporary stand that has been established. In addition, Folk Fest will be making announcements from the main stage advising patrons that they do not have to phone for cabs they will be on hand at the stand by the main gate. Administrative Inspector reports that things were handled better this year than in previous years.

Again, the Committee met with the Brokers to advise them of the arrangements.

It was noted that since the Commission became involved in coordinating the industry things have significantly improved and there no longer are the number of complaints from members of the local community.

MOVED FYSH/LUBIN

#5-08-09

That the status update report of the Operation & Program Committee be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Fysh, Leahey

CARRIED

c. Safety Committee

The Chair of Safety Committee did join Ms. Heather Bettke, Supervisor Police Security Clearance Information Unit, EPS and Councillor Amarjeet Sohi on a call-in segment of Punjab Radio, Wednesday, August 5, 2009 from 8p.m to 10p.m. The panel did discuss Taxi industry safety issues.

The Safety Committee has not met so far this month as there have been no emergent issues that justify a meeting.

MOVED CLARKE/LUBIN

#6-08-09

That the status update report of the Safety Committee be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Fysh, Leahey

CARRIED

d. Driver Training Committee

Taxi Driver Training and Testing Review

- The Committee is continuing to assess the industry input and would only bring forward driver training and testing changes after examining all available options.
- No additional industry written input has been received since the public involvement meeting held on July 7, 2009

Vehicle for Hire Appreciation Day, 2009

- As already announced, the Vehicle For Hire Appreciation Day will be held on November 18, 2009. Further information and nomination forms would be made available by the end of August.

That the status update report of the Driver Training Committee be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Fysh, Leahey

CARRIED

7. Administrative Matters

a. Licensing

- Taxi Commission Expense/Revenue Information

Administrator reported on the attached document and elaborated on expenses and revenue for the first 50% of 2009. We anticipate that the 2009 budget will meet the Zero Tax Levy target.

- July, 2009 Service Deliverable Report

Administrator reported on the attached document and elaborated on the highlights including the issuance of 60 violation tickets this month; 718 YTD and 112 Compliance notices this month; 870 YTD.

Administrator also reported that evaluation of the 2009/2010 VFH licence renewal processes are in progress. Continue meetings with selected service providers to gain a better understanding of their business practices and determine their licensing requirements. Additionally, provide direct liaison with the Vehicle For Hire industry regarding clarity on many sections of the new Bylaw and Regulations, including implementation and enforcement strategies.

- 2010 Budget

Administrator presented a verbal report on 2010 budget informing that the 2010 Commission budget completion forms will be commencing shortly for submission to City Council.

- General Administrative Matters

Administrator presented a verbal report on General administrative matters, including :

- Prepare discussion notes for the July 20 meeting between the Executive Committee and the Community Services Committee of City Council.
- Provide information to City Lawyer concerning the matters of Airport Shuttle municipal licensing, in preparation of the MGA Section 545 Stop Order for this unlicensed VFH service.
- Met with Yellow Cab management and viewed the safety shields being purchased and installed. Confirmed that they continue to meet the specifications as approved by the Commission.
- Met with Ground Transportation representatives of the International Airport regarding the report requested by City Council concerning opportunities to minimize deadheading taxi trips between the Airport and Edmonton.
- Met with the President of the Edmonton Limousine Association to review industry concerns and obtain advice regarding future enforcement opportunities.
- Met with the 3 representatives of the United Cabbies Association to review Association concerns within the industry, identifying potential remedies and solutions.
- Commence 2010 Commission budget completion of forms for submission to City Council.
- Validate Limousine licenses issued as follows:
 - ❖ July 2007 = 190 licences
 - ❖ July 2009 = 169 licences
- Complete "Taxi Rates and Other Incentives Report" to be presented at the August 24, 2009 Community Services Committee meeting.
- Hiring of an additional personnel "Analyst position" to support Administrator in research and analysis, under consideration.

MOVED LEAHEY/KHEHRA

#8-08-09

That the reports presented under Administrative Matters be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Fysh, Leahey

CARRIED

8. New Business

- a. Responsible Hospitality Edmonton
- b. Late Night Transit and Taxi availability
- c. Safety Issues/Concerns in and around Hospitality Zones

Ms. Chapdelaine presented a verbal report on Responsible Hospitality

Edmonton. The aim is to create a dialogue between Vehicle for Hire industry and Public Safety Compliance team, work together towards a common mission of creating safe and vibrant places for people to socialize. Ms. Chapdelaine continued to talk about Late Night Transportation, Safety Issues in and around Hospitality zones. There are 992 licensed premises in the City of Edmonton and 13 identified Hospitality zones including 4 active zones (Jasper Avenue, Whyte Avenue, WEM and 96 Street). The mission for Public Safety Compliance team is to ensure a safe environment for patrons and staff of all licensed facilities and events and help build quality communities within the City of Edmonton.

d. Formal Shuttle Color & Marking approval request

Administrator suggested this agenda item be moved to September meeting, as Mr. Halaby is not present today to advance his request.

MOVED LUBIN/LEAHEY

#9-08-09

That the reports presented under item a, b, c and d New Business be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Fysh, Leahey

CARRIED

9. General Correspondence

MOVED LUBIN/LEAHEY

#10-08-09

That the following items of general correspondence be received as information.

- a. Correspondence dated July 17, 2009 regarding "multi ownership of taxi plates".
- b. Correspondence dated July 12, 2009 regarding "new rules designed to protect solo staff".
- c. Correspondence dated July 14, 2009 regarding "driver training course and hybrid cars".
- d. Correspondence dated August 4, 2009 received from Deputy Chief of Police regarding EPS support to VFHC.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Fysh, Leahey

CARRIED

10. In-Camera Items

There were no in-camera items to be discussed at this time.

Chairman offered individuals an additional minute of time for presentations to the Commission.

Mr. Steve Alvanos made an additional presentation and answered the Commissions questions.

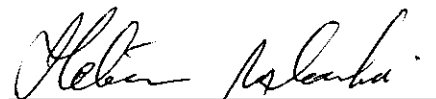
Mr. Balraj Manhas made an additional presentation and answered the Commissions questions.


Mr. Sadhu Singh made an additional presentation and answered the Commissions questions.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The next regular Vehicle For Hire Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room, Main Floor, City Hall.


Hatem Naboulsi, Chairman


Mona Sharma, Acting Secretary