
VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

CITY OF EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 1

Friday, February 18, 2011

MEMBERS

L. Lubin, Chairman
R. Clarke
C. Khehra
M. Fysh
C. Leahey
B. Katz
C. Kilburn

PRESENT

L. Lubin
R. Clarke
C. Khehra
M. Fysh

B. Katz
C. Kilburn

Also in attendance;

Shores Jardine Representative
Acting Chief Livery Officer
Vehicle For Hire Secretary

G. Stewart-Palmer
Doug Collinson
S. Weller

1. Call to Order

Chairman called the meeting to order at **1:32 p.m.** He introduced and welcomed Mrs. Charlene Kilburn, the new appointee to the Commission.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Katz indicated that he would like to see the agenda amended by adding a Notice of Motion under new business so that at the next meeting consideration can be given to having a representative from the E.R.A.A. be included as a non official member of the Vehicle For Hire Commission. He would also like to hear opinions from the industry as to whether they feel it would be beneficial having an E.R.A.A. rep available for information and discussion at VFH meetings.

MOVED: KHEHRA/CLARKE

#1-02-11

That the agenda be approved as amended.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Kilburn, Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fysh indicated that he would like the numbers of the motion appearing at the top of page 8 to be reviewed to ensure they are correct on the final copy.

MOVED: FYSH/KATZ

#2-02-11

That the minutes from the regular meeting held on December 8, 2010 be approved as amended by Mr. Fysh's suggestion.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Kilburn, Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

4. Public Involvement

There are two time specific speakers who wish to address the Commission, as follows;

Mr. David Piper -

Mr. Piper addressed the Commission regarding clarification of the Bylaw specific to the issuance of licences and particularly the transfer of accessible taxi licences.

Ms. Stewart-Palmer, legal representative for the Commission explained the issuance of the accessible licences to the Broker, as per agreement, and illustrated on a board how the vehicles may leave the company, however the licences are required to stay with the Broker to whom they were issued.

Mr. Steve Mogus -

Mr. Mogus addressed the Commission requesting an additional extension to his Taxi Drivers licence, without a Police security detail. He has been unable to obtain his clearance as a result of an error on prior documents (2 are required for the Police security detail) to apply for a clearance) which show two different birth dates. He is trying to resolve the problem through the Federal Government, however the process takes time and he cannot control the effort.

MOVED: FYSH/KHEHRA

#3-02-11

That the issue of Mr. Mogus' Taxi Drivers Licence and security clearance be considered by the Administration in accordance with the provision of Bylaw 14700, with due consideration to be given to the following:

1. Mr. Mogus' efforts to obtain a replacement birth certificate;
2. Prior to any taxi drivers' licence being issued to Mr. Mogus place a condition that the pay any outstanding fees, including the 2010 fee, if not paid, as a precondition to the issuance of the licence.

FOR THE MOTION:
OPPOSED:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Kilburn, Fysh,
Katz

CARRIED

It was suggested that Mr. Mogus meet with Acting Chief Livery Officer, Doug Collinson to discuss his licence issue.

Mr. Stewart-Palmer clarified that the Commission does not have the authority to approve an extension – only to suggest that the Administration give consideration to an extension.

The following individuals requested to speak:

1. Mr. George Psychoff
2. Mr. Sarkis Agop
3. Mr. Balraj Manhas
4. Mr. Phil Strong

Summary of comments/concerns raised:

George Psychoff

- Requests Commission re-visit the issue of age limitation on taxis to control vehicle emissions. He believes it would impose a severe economic cost to drivers for little or no overall benefit.
- It is his opinion that blending Airport/City taxi plates is a backdoor way of allowing airport taxi to operation within the City limits and disagrees with the concept.

Sarkis Agop

- Disagrees with the age limitation on taxi vehicles and feels the five year age restriction requirement would leave a larger footprint on the environment than keeping vehicles for longer use.
- Suggests that the Commission take into consideration the financial implications the age restriction would have on drivers, the industry as a whole and subsequently passengers.

Phil Strong

- Inquired regarding the color awarded to King Cab – how much time are they allowed to become operational and have cabs on the street before the color goes back into the 'available' color pool.
- Requests that the Commission withdraw and reconsider the report going to Community Services regarding the age restriction on taxi vehicles and obtain further industry input on the matter prior to any decision.

Balraj Manhas

- Drivers have recently formed a union which they feel should have a positive effect on their position in the industry.
- Police security clearances are a big problem and are taking up to six months – temporary permits should be issued for a longer period.
- There are still many 'bandit' cabs on the road – feels the Commission should implement another sting operation.
- Requests the Commission change the process for the issuance of accessible taxi licences which would allow the owners of the vehicles to move the licence with them when they wish to move to another company.

Verne Colley (not on list – requested to speak)

- Spoke to contacts at Edmonton Police Service who indicated there is a 9 month backlog for fingerprinting in Ottawa. Suggested EPS take a thumbprint and run it through AFIS which would give information if the correct person was identified as requiring prints. He has left a message for Bill Spinks and will speak to him directly as soon as possible.

Mr. Clarke commended Mr. Colley for offering a solution to the problem.

5. Business Arising**Community Service Reports**

L. Lubin stated he would address this issue in his Executive Committee report.

6. Reports from Committees

Executive Committee

Chairman reported; As you may be aware there have been a number of significant changes that have taken place within the Commission since our last meeting in December. Our long time administrator has left the service with the City and is currently enjoying a sun-filled retirement somewhere in New Mexico. We are pleased to have Doug Collinson serving in that position on a Acting basis until a replacement is found.

I can report there has been considerable interest in the position and it is anticipated we may have someone on board before May 1st.

We are also pleased to welcome back Shar Weller who had been off on an extended sick leave but after a successful convalescence has now returned to again serve the industry.

And lastly, Council extended my term until the end of March.

To continue with the Exec. Committee report;

1. The Commission has a number of Reports that have been scheduled to go before the Community Services Committee since October of last year. It now appears these reports will be brought forth this coming Tuesday, February 22nd. At this time, we have not idea what time this will take place. The reports going forward are:
 - Plan to Reduce Vehicle Emissions
 - Taxi & Limousine Zones
 - Limousine Definition & Best Practices
 - Taxi Broker Accessible Service Advertising
2. Both myself and the Vice-Chairman have participated in the interview process for the Chief Livery Officer's position.
3. We are currently awaiting the appointment of two new Commission members who along with Mrs. Charlene Kilburn, will fill the Commission's 7 member complement.

Finally, we have been advised that neither Superintendent Bill Spinks of the Edmonton Police Service nor Don McDonald from the Transportation Department will be able to attend.

MOVED: KHEHRA/FYSH

#4-02-11

To accept the report as presented.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Kilburn, Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

Operation & Program Committee

- a) Chairman outlined that a series of Bylaw amendments which had been discussed by the O & P Committee were forwarded to all members for their consideration and input.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Kilburn, Fysh, Clarke, Katz

CARRIED

MOVED FYSH/CLARKE

#5-02-11

That the following motions be withdrawn;

1. The Administration request the City of Edmonton Law Branch to draft amendments to Bylaw #14700 so that the start date of the twelve month licence year for taxi vehicle licences and accessible taxi vehicles licences be changed from May 1 to November 1 of each year, commencing in November 2011.
2. The Administration request the City of Edmonton Law Branch to draft amendments to Bylaw #14700 so that the taxi licences and accessible taxi licences which would expire on April 30, 2011 be extended to October 31, 2011.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Kilburn, Fysh, Clarke, Katz

CARRIED

Safety

Mr. Clarke reported on behalf of Chris Leahey that there is no report.

Driver Training

Chairman reported; At the request of Capital Taxi, the Driver Training and Testing Committee met with Capital Taxi January 7, 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Capital's driver training needs and to develop future communication strategies on such matters.

Capital also undertook to regularly provide advance notice of their training courses to the Commission – one course is being held from February 22 – 25, and another from February 28 – March 3, 2011. The Committee will be observing some of the course sessions.

MOVED: KHEHRA/LEAHEY

#6-02-11

To accept the report as presented.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Kilburn, Fysh, Clarke, Katz

CARRIED

7. Administrative Matters

a) Vehicle for Hire Commission

1. January Service Deliverables Report
2. February Service Deliverables Report
3. 2010 Violation Report
4. General matters

Acting Administrator elaborated on the reports and highlighted the statistics. He also indicated that the Commission web site has been updated.

MOVED: KATZ/CLARKE

#7-02-11

To accept the report as presented.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Clarke, Katz

CARRIED

b) Edmonton Police Service

No report at this time.

c) Edmonton Transportation

No report at this time.

8. New Business

MOVED: KATZ/FYSH

#8-02-11

A Notice of Motion will be introduced at the next meeting to explore the possibility of adding a representative from the Edmonton Regional Airport Authority as an ex-officio member of the Commission and to make any necessary amendments to the Commission's Bylaw 14400 should that be required.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Kilburn, Fysh, Clarke, Katz

CARRIED

9. News Articles

- a. Calgary Herald – Dec. 16, 2010 – Safety Shields
- b. Edmonton Sun – December 17, 2010 – Bandit Taxis
- c. CBC (Calgary) – Monday, January 3, 2011 – Late Night Surcharge
- d. Metro News – February 1, 2011 – Labour Board Ruling
- e. Teamsters Canada – February 1, 2011 – Labour Board Ruling
- f. CJOB 68 – February 2, 2011 – Drivers OK to Join Teamsters
- g. 630 CHED – January 28, 2011 – Cabbies Upset With Roads

MOVED: KHEHRA/CLARKE

#9-02-

To accept these news article as information.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Kilburn, Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

10. General Correspondence

- a. E-mail from Balraj Manhas to VFH Commission regarding 'A historic victory for city cab drivers.'
- b. December 14, 2010 document to Leon Lubin, Chair and Phil Fearon wishing continued success in 2011 to the VFH Commission.

MOVED: FYSH/KATZ

#10-02-11

To accept these items of correspondence as information.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Kilburn, Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

11. In-Camera Items

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

12. Adjournment:

MOVED: KHEHRA/KILBURN

#11-02-11

That the meeting be adjourned.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Kilburn, Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

The next regular Vehicle For Hire Commission meeting will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room at City Hall, Friday, March 18, 2010.


L. Lubin, Chairman
S. Weller, Administrative Assistant