
VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

CITY OF EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 11

Wednesday, November 18, 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. Pnaich
M. Fysh
C. Leahey

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

S. Weller	Secretary	D. Cambell	EPS Advisor
P. Fearon	Administrator		

1. Call to Order

Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED FYSH/LUBIN

#1-11-09

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

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

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED KHEHRA/LEAHEY

#2-11-09

That the minutes from the regular meeting held on October 14, 2009 be approved.

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

CARRIED

4. Public Involvement

The following individuals requested to speak on agenda items;

Mr. Balraj Manhas
Mr. Steve Alvanos

Mr. Phil Strong

The above persons made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Summary of comments/concerns raised;

- vehicle emission age restrictions should be 8 or 9 years for taxis and 4 years for limousines
- EPS clearances should be processed through Administration when there is no fingerprints required
- Commission budget reserve fund should be utilized so rate increases are not necessary
- re-consider approval of half shields as a driver was recently assaulted and robbed with a half shield as it offers no protection

5. Business Arising

a. Vehicle Emissions Report

Administrator reported that this report has been scheduled for the City Council agenda in January, however, he is going to request that it be re-scheduled until the February meeting so VFH Commission representatives can be in attendance.

b. Bylaw Amendment Approval

Administrator indicated that the Bylaw amendment regarding modification of the late night surcharge regulation has been passed. He has ordered new decals for distribution throughout the industry. In addition, he has ordered decals that outline the circumstances under which a mini-van may charge an additional fee to advise the public of when a driver may request this charge.

Brokers should be advised to notify their drivers of the change to the late night surcharge regulation as it took effect on October 28, 2009.

c. Limousine Substitute Vehicle Request

Mr. Lubin indicated that this issue would be included in his Committee report.

MOVED FYSH/KHEHRA

#3-11-09

That the Administrators reports on items a, b, and c of Business Arising be received as information.

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

CARRIED

d. Report on Security Checks

Chairman indicated this issue will be included in the EPS report offered by Inspector Campbell.

**e. Response Correspondence to P. Strong
regarding Shuttle/Bus Industry**

Chairman indicated a letter had been forward to Mr. Strong regarding this issue.

**f. Response Correspondence to P. Strong
regarding Mandate of Commission**

Chairman indicated a letter had been forward to Mr. Strong regarding this issue.

6. Reports from Commission

a. Executive Committee

Chairman indicated that his report regarding attendance at the T.L.P.A. conference has been distributed. The formal agenda program as well as various brochures are available in the office if members are interested in viewing.

b. Operation & Program Committee

Mr. Lubin reported that his Committee had reviewed and considered the request submitted by Mr. Strong regarding substitute vehicle fees for limousines and found it to be a valid concern. As a result, the following motion is presented;

MOVED LUBIN/CLARKE

#4-11-09

That the Administration apply a consistent substitute vehicle fee for all classes of vehicles for hire, effective January 1, 2010.

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

CARRIED

In addition, Mr. Lubin requested any industry members who wish to have amendments to the Regulations considered submit their recommendations to the VFH Commission office by January 4, 2010.

Mr. Lubin continued by reading a portion of a report that suggested three possible solutions to offer proof for the '200 day' operational requirement.

This full report is added as Attachment #1 to these minutes.

Mr. Lubin also reported that his Committee had met with representatives of Edmonton Transit as the result of an industry request for additional drop off points at various bus depot locations.

This full report is added as Attachment #2 to these minutes

Commission Chairman also offered the information that the bus loading zone/taxi loading zone at Commerce Place will be reviewed.

MOVED LUBIN/LEAHEY

#5-11-09

That the status update report of the Operation & Program Committee be

received as information.

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

CARRIED

c. Safety Committee

Mr. Clarke indicated that the Safety Committee did not meet this past month.

d. Driver Training Committee

Chairman indicated that since October the Driver Training Committee has been focusing on Driver Appreciation Day. He indicated the role of each individual and reiterated that there were three new awards added to the program this year. He acknowledged the sponsors and indicated he would like to see more industry participation regarding sponsorship for next year. He thanked Commission members for their contributions, including Mr. Lubin for securing Darryl McIntyre as MC and Mr. Clarke for obtaining the many prizes he was able to offer on behalf of sponsors. He also recognized Phil, Shar and Denise for their assistance and thanked inspectors Doug, Harry and Pat for their bylaw enforcement work.

Chairman stated that the Committee will now get back to training issues and will be inviting Brokers and the Drivers Association to meet and discuss proposals.

MOVED KHEHRA/LEAHEY

#6-11-09

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

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

CARRIED

7. Administrative Matters

a. Licensing

i. October, 2009 Service Deliverable Report

Administrator reported that the October, 2009 service deliverable report is attached to the agenda and he would be happy to answer any questions

ii. 3rd quarter 2009 Vehicle For Hire Commission
Expense/Revenue Data

Administrator reported that the attached expense and revenue report details year to date statistics. It appears there is an under expenditure of 22 thousand and that we are 5 thousand behind in revenue. He believes we will have a balanced budget by year end.

iii. VFH Commission Workplan

Administrator indicated that he has attached a draft three year work plan to the agenda. He would like to add that in December of each year each Committee Chairman submit a year end status report and highlight their priorities for the following year. He stated that all of the items on the November 2009 workplan have been completed and that the December workplan indicated the election of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and assignment of Committee members.

iv. 2010 Budget

Administrator stated that the public document for the 2010 budget was attached to the agenda.

Administrator stated that further to his report he would like to advise that the accessible taxi RFP is on target to be available in early January. Also, he met with the Advisory Board for Persons with Disabilities who indicated they enjoy the accessible taxi service but feel there is very little 'on demand' service – they usually pre-book their trips. He and Mr. Lubin attended the Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting at which Transit tabled their report on alternative public transportation. Transportation and Public Works requested a more detailed report be offered at a later date. Finally, he met with the Drivers Association and subsequently made an administrative change to licensing policy that would have temporary permits issued for a two month period rather than one month to alleviate process and administrative fee duplication, as well as to improve customer service.

MOVED LEAHEY/KHEHRA

#7-11-09

That the Administrator's report be received as information.

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

CARRIED

b. Edmonton Police Service

i. Delay in Processing Security Checks

Inspector Campbell indicated that the reason the Administration cannot forward applications for security clearances on behalf of individuals as is the practice in Vancouver is that there is different Provincial legislation for both Provinces. In Alberta, the information must be given directly to the applicant, not to a third party. Also, remove watermark official photo identification is required by E.P.S. to process the application. She also indicated that with the additional staff at E.P.S. the turnaround time of security clearance applications is now approximately 2 to 3 days.

MOVED LUBIN/LEAHEY

#8-11-09

That the report offered by Inspector Campbell on security clearances be received as information.

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

CARRIED

8. New Business

- a. E-mail correspondence dated November 5, 2009 to the Vehicle For Hire Commission from Balraj Manhas, President, United Cabbies Association. of Edmonton regarding 'Cab Drivers on high risk from H1N1 flu virus'.

The Administration was directed to draft a letter to the appropriate Provincial Health Authority individual and request that any steps possible be taken to ensure cab drivers are included on priority lists for H1N1 or other vaccinations because of their proximity to the public, transporting children and individuals to medical appointments and the hospital.

MOVED LUBIN/FYSH

#9-11-10

That the correspondence to the Commission submitted by Mr. Manhas be received as information.

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

CARRIED

9. News Articles

- a. Edmonton Sun article dated November 3, 2009 regarding 'Driver Appreciation Awards'.

- b. Edmonton Examiner articles (2) dated November 4th regarding 'Driver Appreciation Awards'.

MOVED LUBIN/KHEHRA

#10-11-09

That news articles attached to the agenda as items a. and b. be received as information.

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

CARRIED

10. General Correspondence

- a. Copy of correspondence to the Honourable Heather Klimchuk from Mayor Stephen Mandel regarding an incentive program for owners/operators who use hybrid vehicles.

MOVED LEAHEY/ LUBIN

#11-11-09

That the copy of correspondence from Mayor Mandel to Heather Klimchuk be received as information.

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

CARRIED

MOVED LUBIN/CLARKE

#12-11-09

That the two Calgary Herald news articles distributed at the meeting regarding cell phones and the amount of taxi business be received as information.

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

CARRIED

The following individuals were offered the opportunity to address or re-address the Commission;

Mr. Steve Alvanos

Mr. Alvanos indicated that it was his impression that Capital Taxi had forwarded

some nominations for the appreciation awards. He will forward a copy of the e-mail document.

Mr. Lubin inquired as to whether the Administration had received information from all Brokers on wheelchair accessible taxi trips and if not, are there steps that can be taken to speed up the process.

Administrator stated that the information has been received from all companies except Yellow who indicated they are working on obtaining the information.

Mr. Leahey indicated to Broker representatives present that he would like to do a ride-along with drivers in the near future.

10. In-Camera Items

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

11. Adjournment

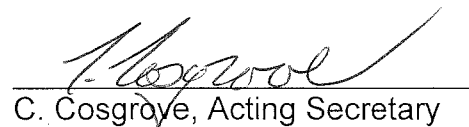
The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

The next regular Vehicle For Hire Commission meeting will be held **Wednesday, December 9, 2009** at 1:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room, Main Floor, City Hall.

****PLEASE NOTE; THE JANUARY 13, 2010 MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED****



Leon Lubin, Vice-Chairman



C. Cosgrove, Acting Secretary