

Tillamook County Transportation District
TAC Applicant Review Committee
Tuesday, September 14, 2021 – 5:30PM
Meeting Minutes



1. **Call to Order:** Administrative Assistant Shannon Wakeman called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. **Introductions:**

Linda Adler, Committee Member
Judy Riggs, Committee Member
James Huffman, Committee Member
Shannon Wakeman, TCTD Staff
Doug Pilant, TCTD General Manager
Elizabeth Rosso, General Counsel
Mary McGuinness, citizen from Rockaway Beach
Chris Kell, citizen from Tillamook
Jackie Edwards, citizen from Garibaldi
Larry Stevens, citizen from Tillamook
Nancy Briggie-Olson, citizen from South County
Arla Miller, representing ODOT
Joe Warren, representing the Tillamook Headlight Herald
Steve Billings (joined late, no introduction)

3. **Staff review and Staff recommendations**

General Manager Pilant provided background information on the formation of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and an explanation of the bylaws and state requirements.

Administrative Assistant Wakeman reviewed the staff memo to the Board, issued in the August board meeting packet and included in this meeting packet. The staff recommendations are to appoint Ron Rush to a 3-year term; Ross Tomlin to a 3-year term; Carol McAndrew to a 3-year term; and Brooke Wyntergreen to complete an unexpired 1-year term for Stacie Zuercher.

4. **Discussion of Applicants**

Committee Member Jim Huffman stated that this process has been confusing and wished there was more communication regarding the review process. Mr. Huffman asked Mrs. Rosso, General Counsel who was present, if the Board can amend the TAC bylaws. Mrs. Rosso responded yes that the Board could do this in the future, but that the current appointments needed to adhere to the current bylaws. Mr. Huffman thanked Mrs. Rosso and requested her presence at all meetings between the Board and General Manager, stating his belief that this is what "most boards do". Mr. Huffman then explained that Linda had informed him that she had done a lot of work preparing and asked her to begin the discussion with her thoughts.

Committee Member Linda Adler led the discussion of each applicant.

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Regarding David Adler: Mrs. Adler began by stating that her husband's service on the committee could be an ethical conflict, so she wished for his application to be excluded.

Regarding Ron Rush: Mrs. Adler says he is an awesome candidate and ticks all the boxes. Mrs. Adler asked Mr. Rush, who was present, if he would consider a 1-year term and then would turn over his seat to a different Marie Mills executive. Mr. Rush responded that the organization is under a lot of stress and transition currently due to COVID and he would be concerned about springing this commitment onto someone else. He asked Mrs. Adler why she felt this was necessary. Mrs. Adler responded that it isn't necessary. Mr. Rush said he would defer to GM Pilant on this matter and would be happy to suggest another executive from Marie Mills if it would help the mechanics of the Committee.

Regarding Larry Stevens: Mr. Huffman said he's glad Mr. Stevens applied and stated that Mr. Stevens was not able to provide complete information to staff because his internet was down during the time staff requested clarification, and he never received the email. Administrative Assistant Wakeman responded by saying that she had spoken to Mr. Stevens on the phone when she hadn't received a response via email, and had let him know what information was needed. Mr. Stevens did send a response but did not provide clarity needed [all this appears in the meeting packet]. Mr. Huffman said that Mr. Stevens has declined to serve on the committee.

Regarding Mrs. McAndrews: Mrs. Adler questioned the ethics of having Mrs. McAndrews on the committee because she is the mother of an employee of the District. Mrs. Riggs pointed out that Mrs. McAndrews has volunteered with the District for many years, has perfect meeting attendance, and always provides good input. Mrs. Riggs said her service should be recognized with an invitation to continue to serve, even with appointment to the one-year term. Mrs. Adler stated that she thought it was still an ethics violation and stated that Board Member Hanenkrat [not present] had told her he was uncomfortable with Mrs. McAndrews service on the committee. Judy asked if the reason Mrs. Adler and Mr. Huffman didn't want Mrs. McAndrews reappointed was due to their personal conflicts with District employee Cathy Bond, who is Mrs. McAndrews' daughter. Mrs. Adler stated that was not what this was about and that she feels there are better qualified applicants.

Regarding Ross Tomlin: Mrs. Adler stated that she likes him, thinks he is a sound person, and doesn't have any concerns with him. Mrs. Riggs says she thinks he is an excellent choice and a good partner with the District already. Mr. Huffman agreed.

Regarding Brooke Wyntergreen: Mrs. Adler stated that "it seems like she has a special interest" and brought up the Pacific City Shuttle, stating that the District operates that service for free, which she doesn't agree with, and that this is a benefit to Mrs. Wyntergreen's "parking committees". Mrs. Riggs responded that she thinks Mrs. Adler is missing the point of the PC Shuttle, and went on to say that she feels Mrs. Wyntergreen is a "strong candidate that would bring a diverse point of view". Mr.

Huffman said that he's just finding out the details about her from the report given to the Board in August.

Regarding Melonie Ferguson: Mr. Huffman said that Mrs. Ferguson writes the Fence Post for south county and is very involved in south county.

Regarding Peter Starkey: Mrs. Adler stated that the "staff doesn't seem to want him" and she doesn't know why. Administrative Assistant Wakeman clarified that it's not the case of staff "not wanting" any of these candidates, only that there were fewer spots available than quality applications received, and requested Mrs. Adler refrain from implying otherwise. Mrs. Adler apologized. Mrs. Riggs stated she believes he would be a solid candidate because of his work at CARE.

Regarding Beth Hope: Mrs. Adler stated that Mrs. Hope works at Tides of Change and assisted with getting 6 buses for Helping Hands, which is nice, and Tides of Change is an awesome organization. She said she doesn't know much about Mrs. Hope but she seems like a strong candidate.

Regarding Jackie Edwards: Mrs. Riggs stated that Mrs. Edwards has served on the board for a long time and in background roles for the District prior to that, and that she has a lot of knowledge about how the board works.

Regarding Mary McGinnis: Mrs. Adler thanked Mrs. McGinnis for attending the meeting tonight. She said that Mrs. McGinnis checked a lot of boxes but not all of them appeared to have made it on to the spreadsheet prepared by staff. Administrative Assistant Wakeman responded that the email correspondence between herself and Mrs. McGinnis was included in the meeting packet and that some of the categories originally marked had been removed by this correspondence. Mrs. Adler invited Mrs. McGinnis to speak. Mrs. McGinnis stated that she is very active in the community, and thus her roles sometimes change rapidly. She clarified that she was, at the time of the application, on the Planning and Zoning committee but is now on City Council, and that she had formerly not been working with the school district but now is.

Regarding Melonie Ferguson: Mrs. Adler stated that it's in Mrs. Ferguson's application that Mrs. Adler asked her to apply, but said she's never met her. Mrs. Adler explained that Mrs. Ferguson is a journalist who writes the Fence Post for south county in the Headlight Herald. She also works with a nonprofit. Mr. Huffman agreed with Mrs. Adler and said that not everyone can use the internet so the newspaper would be a good way to make sure everyone can get the District's information. Administrative Assistant Wakeman clarified that while her application was strong, the specific sentence from Mrs. Ferguson, "I am willing. I think describing me as WANTING to serve is a bit of an exaggeration" was what ultimately put her out of the staff recommendations.

At this time Mrs. Adler stated that she thought the committee members should make their recommendations. Mrs. Riggs encouraged the committee to think about diversity in the representation each candidate could bring to the committee, and that she's still in favor of staff recommendations, but would entertain other candidates if Mrs. Adler thought there were stronger applications.

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Mrs. Adler stated that she thinks Mrs. McAndrew should be replaced on the committee for the reasons she already gave. Mrs. Riggs stated that she still thought this was more based on personal reasons that who was the best candidate. Mrs. Adler disagreed and asked the attorney, Mrs. Rosso, if Mrs. McAndrew's service on the committee was an ethics violation. Mrs. Rosso clarified the question and responded that Mrs. McAndrew's service on the committee was not directly a conflict of interest, but it was possible that her vote on matters that could benefit her daughter could be a conflict of interest.

Administrative Assistant Wakeman explained that Mrs. McAndrew currently meets the "low income" requirement for the committee, so a different candidate would have to meet this criterion. Mrs. Adler asked if Mr. Rush could meet this requirement. Administrative Assistant Wakeman clarified that he could, but one person can only meet one criterion, so someone else would have to serve on the committee who met the over 65 OR disabled requirement. Mrs. Adler stated that Mrs. Ferguson could do that. Mrs. Riggs responded that she felt Mr. Starkey was a better candidate for that role because of his involvement with CARE. Mrs. Adler stated that she is fine with Mr. Rush or Mrs. Ferguson meeting the low-income requirement, that she has spoken with her and that Mrs. Ferguson is very interested in serving on the committee.

Mrs. Adler summarized her feelings that Mr. Rush is a yes and Mrs. McAndrew is a no. She asked Mrs. Riggs if she felt Mr. Starkey was a good candidate. Mrs. Riggs said yes and felt that he was a better representative for the committee than Mrs. Ferguson. Mrs. Adler asked Mrs. Riggs if she thought Mrs. Hope should be removed as a candidate. Mrs. Riggs responded no. All committee members expressed that Mr. Tomlin was a good candidate that should be recommended.

Mrs. Adler asked if the candidates that were still being considered were only Mrs. Hope, Mrs. McGinnis, Mr. Starkey, and Mrs. Ferguson. Mrs. Riggs responded that Mrs. Wyntergreen is also a good candidate, and that the staff recommendation was for a one-year appointment for her. Mrs. Riggs pointed out that Mrs. Wyntergreen does a lot of work with tourism and the tourism industry and would provide a valuable view point. Mrs. Adler disagreed, stating that she would rather focus on the interests of the people who actually live here rather than tourists. Administrative Assistant Wakeman added that Mrs. Wyntergreen was the only applicant who represents a "major destination for tourism" which is one of the categories that needs to be considered for the committee, although isn't a required one.

GM Pilant took a moment to respond to Mrs. Adler's complaints about the "free service" the District provides in Pacific City, explaining that the STIF fund is a payroll tax paid for by employees and that supporting businesses is of the reasons destination management is a priority for the STIF program. Business concerns need to be included in planning and tourism needs to be considered a priority. GM Pilant explained that the service to Pacific City is designed to do a specific job and is there to help resolve the community's long-time problems. He added that he believes having someone on the committee who has first-hand knowledge of what's needed there would be incredibly valuable to the District's planning of services.

Mrs. Adler recommended Mrs. Ferguson for a one-year term. Mr. Huffman said this sounded good to him. Mrs. Riggs expressed her concerns about Mrs. Ferguson's application, stating she doesn't sound like someone who really wants to position and explaining that "you wouldn't put a sentence like that on a job application". Mrs. Adler responded that Mrs. Ferguson is an "interesting personality" and she thinks that the committee would enjoy her. Mr. Huffman says she's a long-time resident of south county and that he thinks that is important. Mrs. Riggs stated that she thinks the committee is making a mistake to overlook Mrs. Wyntergreen. Mr. Huffman responded that two committee members want to appoint Mrs. Ferguson versus one committee member who wants to appoint Mrs. Wyntergreen.

Mrs. Riggs suggested Mr. Starkey as a candidate. Mrs. Adler asked if the CARE organization Mr. Starkey works for is the one connected to the brokerage [that the District operates]. Mr. Huffman responded no. Mrs. Adler stated that Mr. Starkey's applicant doesn't say much, and Mr. Huffman added that he doesn't represent south county, either.

Mrs. Adler stated that she thought Mrs. McGinnis is a strong candidate. Mrs. Riggs suggested Mr. Starkey for three years and Mrs. Ferguson for one year. Mrs. Adler responded that she still prefers Mrs. McGinnis, not Mr. Starkey. Mr. Huffman said that Mrs. McGinnis would have more freedom with her time than Mr. Starkey, who is "overwhelmed" with CARE. He asked Mrs. McGinnis if she had more time to dedicate to the committee because she is retired. Mrs. McGinnis responded that she is primarily retired and now serves as a substitute teacher. Mr. Huffman said he's in favor of Mrs. McGinnis, especially because she attended the meeting.

Mrs. Adler recommends Mr. Rush, Mr. Tomlin, and Mrs. McGinnis for three- year terms and Mrs. Ferguson for a one-year term. Mrs. Riggs said she thinks that Mrs. Wyntergreen and Mr. Starkey have more to offer, but that she knows she'll be outvoted. Mr. Huffman responded that these aren't the final picks, just a recommendation that's going to the board.

Mrs. Riggs directed her thanks to Mrs. McGinnis for showing up and stated that she feels Mrs. McGinnis does have a lot to offer. Mrs. McGinnis thanked Mrs. Riggs for her comments.

GM Pilant asked Administrative Assistant Wakeman if the required criteria are met by the proposed recommendation. Mrs. Wakeman responded yes.

5. **Motion for Committee Recommendations for TAC Appointments**

Mrs. Wakeman then asked for a motion from the committee. Mr. Huffman said that wasn't necessary. Mrs. Wakeman explained that a motion was necessary to take the committee's recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Adler made the motion to recommend Mr. Rush, Mr. Tomlin, and Mrs. McGinnis for three-year terms and Mrs. Ferguson for a one-year term to the Board of Directors at the September meeting. *Mr. Huffman seconded* the motion. Mr. Huffman and Mrs. Adler voted in favor. Mrs. Riggs voted opposed. **Motion carries.**

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6. Staff Comments/ Concerns

GM Pilant said he would like to echo what Administrative Assistant Wakeman had said earlier, that the District is grateful to have received so many quality applications. He said that the District had specific objectives they were trying to achieve when putting forth the staff recommendations, and that this is the first time in his 9-year tenure at the District that the Board has taken an interest in committee selection, so he also appreciates that too.

Administrative Assistant Wakeman had nothing further to add.

7. Committee Member Comments/ Concerns

Mrs. Adler stated that she had nothing to add.

Mr. Huffman thanked everyone who showed up to the meeting and those who applied. He expressed that it was great for the Board to be involved in the selection process and that he expects it will be less laborious in the future. He thanked Mrs. Rosso for attending and said having an attorney present with both staff and the Board is great.

Mrs. Adler thanked everyone for attending.

Mrs. Riggs thanked those who applied. She said she understands people are very busy and people can't always be present so she appreciates those who were present for the meeting. She also thanked staff for doing such a great job, Mrs. Rosso for sitting in and providing clarifications, and Mrs. Miller from ODOT for attending.

8. Public and Guest Comment

Mrs. Miller expressed that it was disappointing to see so much in-fighting between board members and hopes the future will see the Board working together better.

Mr. Rush thanked the District for all the good work they do under GM Pilant's leadership. He stated that running a public agency is never easy, or running any agency for that matter, but that we should have pride in what the District does. He said he is looking forward to continuing to serve on the committee.

Mr. Stevens said it was very interesting to sit in on the meeting and appreciated the exchanges. He said he thinks we are very fortunate to have a Transportation District in Tillamook County that is trying to reach those who really need the help.

Mrs. Kell thanked everyone for their work and said the District has a great General Manager, and that as a TAC member she is excited to have the appointments finalized at the Board meeting next week so we will all know who the committee is.

Mrs. Edwards thanked those who participated in the meeting, and thanked Mrs. Miller for her thoughtful and straightforward comments. She expressed that we have a good District and she hopes it continues that way.

9. Adjournment: Administrative Assistant Wakeman adjourned the meeting at 7:01pm.

These minutes approved this 23rd day of September, 2021.

ATTEST:

James Huffman, Board Chair

Doug Pilant, General Manager

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