



BURLINGTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE LICENSING BOARD
CITY HALL, 149 CHURCH ST. SHARON BUSHOR CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST
FLOOR
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 12, 2025

Members present: Paul Hines (Chair)
Stephen Hamlin
Youness Jamil (Remotely)

Also present: Tenzin Chokden

Meeting start time: 5:30PM

1. Agenda

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1.1. Motion to amend/adopt agenda

A motion to approve was made by Stephen Hamlin and seconded by Youness Jamil. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

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2.1. Previous Minutes from 10/23/2024

Stephen Hamlin made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Youness Jamil. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Forum

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No members of the public spoke.

4. Survey on CURB

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Of the 37 surveys sent to business owners on February 5th, Tenzin Chokden reported that only 5 responses were received, with one owner explicitly declining. The survey details are included in the attached report within the agenda packet.

Tenzin asked Youness if he had any luck reaching out to drivers to gauge their interest in CURB.

Youness Jamil said he responded to the survey. Having seen the presentation from the owners and managers, he was convinced CURB would be a good addition to the taxi service, especially given the low traffic volume at the airport and in the city.

Paul Hines asked Youness what his your intuition on this was. Should the board move forward? He said it would be a significant undertaking and that he believes the taxi owners would need to cover the costs. It appears there would be an upfront expense, followed by approximately \$40 per month. He asked if people would be willing to pay that amount.

Youness Jamil responded that he thinks so. He stated that especially if they get more traffic and business, he's sure they'll definitely use it. Therefore, he doesn't really mind paying \$40 a month, particularly if it brings in more business.

Paul Hines asked If the cost were \$40-\$50 per month, how many drivers do you estimate would sign up?

Youness Jamil reported that while he did not have an exact number of interested drivers, many were in favor of the proposal. Concerns were raised regarding tracking, with some drivers preferring cash transactions and expressing hesitation about government monitoring of their earnings. This was cited as a primary reason for some drivers' reluctance to participate.

Paul Hines noted that, although drivers are required to accept credit cards, consistent adherence to this policy is lacking. Recent incidents, including drivers failing to use meters or record passenger information, were cited, indicating a need for improved policy enforcement.

Stephen Hamlin stated that he was disappointed with the survey results, noting that only 5 of 37 recipients responded, despite the efforts made to distribute it.

Tenzin Chokden mentioned Michael from CURB contacted Scot Barker to inquire about next steps. Scot Barker informed Michael that the board's decision would be communicated following the meeting. The board discussed whether to proceed with CURB and determined to inform Michael of their decision.

Tenzin Chokden asked if the board members had any follow-up questions for CURB regarding the next steps for moving forward.

Paul Hines stated he would be supportive of moving forward with CURB, and because the City does not have the budget to pay for dispatch services, the costs would fall on the drivers.

Stephen Hamlin stated that some drivers might resist the proposal. This could be because they prefer cash transactions. They might also want to avoid tracking of their earnings. He also noted that the low survey response was disappointing with only 5 out of 37 business owners responding.

Paul Hines agreed.

Youness Jamil strongly recommended scheduling one or two driver meetings to educate them about CURB and persuade them to join.

Stephen Hamlin asked if seeing CURB drivers get more rides would encourage others to join.

Youness Jamil asked if CURB could begin with five interested drivers.

Tenzin Chokden agreed to seek clarification from Scot Barker on CURB's policy regarding this.

Paul Hines suggested adding a question to the survey regarding the total package cost of CURB for drivers and their interest level.

Tenzin Chokden agreed to revise the survey for simplicity and effectiveness in order to gather more information. Based on survey results, the board will determine whether to invite Michael from CURB to the next meeting which will be held on April 16th, 2025.

5. New Business

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The board discussed airport vehicle-for-hire regulation enforcement, prompted by an incident involving Paul Hines where a driver refused meter use, leading to him taking another taxi.

Youness Jamil suggested Tenzin Chokden conduct on-site inspections of the taxi queue to ensure driver compliance.

Tenzin Chokden stated that due to his workload, he could not perform regular inspections but would inquire if airport ambassadors could assist.

6. Adjournment

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6.1. Motion to adjourn

Stephen Hamlin moved to adjourn at 6:06PM. Youness Jamil seconded. The motion passed unanimously.