

Kingston Area Taxi Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information: 04-2023

- Date: April 12, 2023
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Location: Virtual
- Attendees:
 - Chairman Dowser
 - Commissioner Chapelle
 - Commissioner Budarick
 - Commissioner Chaves
 - Commissioner Fraser
 - Mark Greenwood (Amey's Taxi)

Agenda Items:

1. Condolences for Gary Payne
2. Standing Committee Report
3. Accessibility Committee Report
4. Miscellaneous Business
 - Taxi Operator Awareness Week
 - Window Wraps for Commission Office
5. New Motions
6. Bylaws

Discussion Points:

1. **Condolences for Gary Payne:**
 - The commission extended its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Gary Pain, a long-time dispatcher for Amey's Taxi, on his sudden passing on March 22, 2023.

- Mark Greenwood shared that Gary was a friend and mentor who had worked for Amey's Taxi for over 20 years, and he will be missed by the industry.

2. Standing Committee Report:

- The standing committee discussed issues around enforcement of the new taxi plates and a public awareness campaign on transportation fraud.
- The committee recommended that the commission temporarily amend the fine schedule to include up to a 24-hour suspension for taxis operating without the new commission-issued plates, instead of a \$100 fine.
- The public awareness campaign, titled "Pay the Fare. It's the Law", will educate passengers that skipping out on taxi fares is considered transportation fraud under the Criminal Code of Canada.

3. Accessibility Committee Report:

- The accessibility committee discussed issues with accessible taxi trip logs, vehicle operations, and the new plate numbers.
- The committee recommended the same temporary amendment to the fine schedule for accessible taxis operating without the new plates.
- The commission decided to call a special meeting with the accessible plate holders to address the outstanding trip log submissions.

4. Miscellaneous Business:

- The commission approved a motion to proclaim the second week of June as "Taxi Operator Awareness Week" and request the city councils to light city hall in yellow to represent the taxi industry.
- The commission approved a motion to design and install window wraps for the commission office to provide privacy and potential cost savings on heating/cooling.

5. New Motions:

- The commission passed a motion to begin the process of calculating the number of taxi plates to be made available in 2023, with a report to be provided at the June 14th meeting.

6. Bylaws:

- The commission suspended the procedural bylaw to allow for three readings of a new bylaw to amend the fine schedule for taxis operating without the new commission-issued plates.
- The new bylaw includes a temporary amendment to the fine schedule, replacing the \$100 fine with up to a 24-hour suspension, sunsetting on June 30, 2023.

Decisions Made:

- Extend condolences to the family and friends of Gary Payne.
- Temporarily amend the fine schedule to include up to a 24-hour suspension for taxis operating without the new commission-issued plates.
- Proceed with a public awareness campaign on transportation fraud for skipping taxi fares.
- Call a special meeting with accessible plate holders to address outstanding trip log submissions.
- Proclaim the second week of June as "Taxi Operator Awareness Week".
- Install window wraps for the commission office.
- Begin the process of calculating the number of taxi plates to be made available in 2023, with a report at the June 14th meeting.

Action Items:

- Task: Notify Amey's Taxi office of the new suspension policy for taxis without the new plates.
 - Person Responsible: Commission Staff
 - Deadline: Immediately