

**American Rescue Plan Act  
Special Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** June 15, 2022 – 5:00  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing: 1-646-558-8656,  
Meeting ID: 872 5104 5337  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Peter Criswell, Chairman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Amber Feaster  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Thomas Corcoran, Jr., Aaron J. Levine, Craig V. Lopez, and Megan Sperry  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Phil Erner, Manna Jo Greene, and Kathy Nolan; Deputy County Executives Chris Kelly and Johanna Contreras; Comptroller March Gallagher; Deputy Comptroller Alicia DeMarco; ARP Administration Nathan Litwin, Ashlee Long, and Molly Scott

- **Chairman Criswell called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM**

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**Motion No. 1: To discuss Resolution No. 289** -- Amending The 2022 - 2027 Capital Improvement Program –Establishing And Funding Capital Project No. 635 - ARPA Parks Program – Amending The 2022 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Finance

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution establishes Capital Project No. 635 in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 to create the ARPA Parks Program to partner with municipalities to match up to 50% of the total cost of each park project, with a maximum match of \$500,000.00 per project.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Corcoran  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Discussion:** See attached transcript.  
**Disposition:** No Action Taken

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**Motion No. 2: To discuss Resolution No. 290** – Amending The County Budget To Include Federal Aid Funding To Implement The Mental Health In Schools Program – Department Of Mental Health

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution allocates \$750,000.00 of ARPA funding to support a Mental Health in Schools program and amends the operating budget accordingly.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Lopez  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Corcoran

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Discussion:** See attached transcript.

**Motion No. 3: To approve Resolution No. 290** – Amending The County Budget To Include Federal Aid Funding To Implement The Mental Health In Schools Program – Department Of Mental Health

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution allocates \$750,000.00 of ARPA funding to support a Mental Health in Schools program and amends the operating budget accordingly.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Lopez  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Corcoran

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**New Business:** None

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**Old Business:** None

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Chairman Criswell asked the members if there was any other business, and hearing none;

## **Adjournment**

<b>Motion Made By:</b>	Legislator Corcoran
<b>Motion Seconded By:</b>	Legislator Sperry
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	5
<b>No. of Votes Against:</b>	0

<b>Time:</b>	5:45 PM
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<b>Respectfully submitted:</b>	Amber Feaster
<b>Minutes Approved:</b>	June 29, 2022

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Meeting ID: 872 5104 5337  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Peter Criswell, Chairman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Amber Feaster  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Thomas Corcoran, Jr., Aaron J. Levine, Craig V.  
Lopez, and Megan Sperry  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Phil Erner, Manna Jo Greene, and Kathy Nolan;  
Deputy County Executives Chris Kelly and Johanna  
Contreras; Comptroller March Gallagher; Deputy  
Comptroller Alicia DeMarco; ARP Administration Nathan  
Litwin, Ashlee Long, and Molly Scott

- **Chairman Criswell called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM**
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**Chairman Criswell:** Okay. Thank you. I'm going to call this meeting to order. This is the June 15 meeting of the American Rescue Plan Act Special Committee. It is 5:02 and we are called to order. Could you call the roll please, Clerk Feaster?

**Deputy Clerk Feaster:** Criswell.

**Chairman Criswell:** Here.

**Deputy Clerk Feaster:** Corcoran.

**Legislator Corcoran:** Here.

**Deputy Clerk Feaster:** Levine.

**Legislator Levine:** Here.

**Deputy Clerk Feaster:** Lopez.

**Legislator Lopez:** Here.

**Deputy Clerk Feaster:** Sperry.

**Legislator Sperry:** Here.

**Deputy Clerk Feaster:** All present.

**Chairman Criswell:** Thank you so much. I appreciate that. I do think tonight's gonna be a quick meeting. So, we'll get to it. Um, can I have a, we don't have anything we need to approve, right? We're not gonna approve minutes until next time. Great. That's perfect. Could I have a motion to discuss Resolution 289?

**Legislator Corcoran:** Motion.

**Chairman Criswell:** And a second.

**Legislator Lopez:** Second.

**Chairman Criswell:** All in favor.

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairman Criswell:** Okay. So let me just catch you up to my conversations with Legislator Stewart. So, this did not pass Public Works. There was a suggestion in Public Works that this be reduced to \$2 million, rather than \$5 million and I think Legislator Stewart was contemplating that, but really interested in having this funded at the higher level. So, he's rethinking right now. I think he's thinking about talking to the Exec team and seeing if maybe it could be something that's actually funded in the in the, on the Exec side of, of it. So, it's in a little bit of flux right now. So, what I said to him was, rather than have him come and present a whole Resolution that we don't know where it's going, we're just going to take no action on this again. We'll put it on hold until he gets his ducks in a row, comes back to us. So, this will be back on our agenda probably next meeting, depending on where it's at. Anybody have any further thoughts on that? Or is that fine with everybody? Great.

**Legislator Corcoran:** All right. I'm fine with it. Yeah, I thought the mount was a little excessive myself, but I'll go along with it.

**Chairman Criswell:** Legislator Levine.

**Legislator Levine:** Yes. Thank, Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, in terms of what Legislator Corcoran just said, you know, so, my understanding would be if, if we took this up at the requested value that would deplete more than half of what we have remaining. Correct? I just want to make sure that my numbers are right.

**Chairman Criswell:** That's correct. You know, there are still things that will be adjusted out as, as actual costs play out. But roughly, we're at 9.5 million, and that will be 5 million. So, you're right, that would be more than half. Yeah. So, I think it's actually a good thing for him to rethink that, especially since this was not really on our priorities list, as we kind of realigned our priorities. So, I think rethinking that is probably a good idea. Okay, great. So, I'm gonna just,

gonna, we're just going to not take any action on this one, and we will see when it reappears on our agenda. Could I have a motion to discuss Resolution 290, please?

**Legislator Lopez:** I'll move it.

**Chairman Criswell:** Can I have a second, please?

**Legislator Corcoran:** Second.

**Chairman Criswell:** All in favor.

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairman Criswell:** Okay. So, this, correct me if I'm wrong now, this passed Health, except for one vote?

**Legislator Corcoran:** That's correct.

**Chairman Criswell:** Correct? And it passed Ways, it was held in Ways and Means? What happened in Ways and Means?

**Deputy Executive Contreras:** It was postponed by...

**Chairman Criswell:** Yes. It was postponed. Okay. Thank you. So, it was postponed in Ways & Means.

**Deputy Executive Contreras:** By one week.

**Chairman Criswell:** I'm sorry.

**Deputy Executive Contreras:** Postponed by one week.

**Chairman Criswell:** By one week. Okay. So postponed by one week. And I know that there were several questions that came out of that. So, I would like to actually give the floor to Deputy Executive Contreras to talk about those questions and kind of fill us in on what the conversation was and sort of where we're at with answering those questions if that's alright with you.

**Deputy Executive Contreras:** Sure, yep. That sounds good.

**Chairman Criswell:** Excellent. Thank you.

**Deputy Executive Contreras:** So, the questions that came out of Ways and Means were, I think there were three main ones. The first one was Chair Walter was concerned about a potential gap in services for the fall of not this fall, but the fall of next year. If we weren't going to put this in the into the FY 23 budget, um, sort of how would it take us beyond if this was a one-year contract from September to September, what would then happen from September to December?

So, Commissioner McDonald and I went back and looked at the proposal and we actually clarified that the proposal was a million dollars for eight for 18 months but we do want to right, where we would want to work if this is approved to like, right size the budget with, with the provider and make sure that salaries are competitive. I know everybody has concerns about us being able to actually find social workers to fill these positions. So, we would want to probably, right size, some of those salaries and just make sure that some of the other costs don't need to be adjusted, like fuel has gone up since they've put in this proposal. So due to all of that, I think we would probably be able to stretch the funding over 15 months. But like, long story short, this would take us through 2023 so there wouldn't be a gap in services, and then we could then figure out what to do for the 2024 budget next year. So that was that piece.

**Chairman Criswell:** Thank you for that.

**Deputy Executive Contreras:** Another question. I think that Legislator Gavaris raised was, if we do have difficulty hiring, how would we then go about choosing which districts would participate and which wouldn't? And so, we were discussing this today, Tara and I, and what we would want to do is figure out a way of sharing services so that we would still touch every district and that would be a conversation with the school districts based on what resources they have and what their needs are to be able to figure out basically a schedule and a staffing pattern so that everybody would still all the districts would still be able to participate as opposed to working with some and not others.

**Chairman Criswell:** Okay, Could I could I just interrupt for one second?

**Deputy Executive Contreras:** Sure.

**Chairman Criswell:** If you're not speaking, could you please mute yourself? We're having some sort of background noise happening now. Thank you.

**Deputy Executive Contreras:** And then the last piece was, Chair Bartels asked to see this specific proposal. I think she was asking because she, she think, I'm not sure. But she might think that this proposal has already been awarded, but it hasn't yet. So, we're trying to just get the policy approval and then at that point, we would do the negotiation with provider and then come back to you all for approval on the contract next month with the, and then you'd be able to see the proposal at that point. So those were the three, the three biggest questions from Ways and Means.

**Chairman Criswell:** Great, thank you very much. I also wanted to just reiterate the scoring for this from the committee. So, the overall score was a grand total of 72%. Goals and Mission hit 63%, Equity Distribution 87%, Community Impacts 74%, and Financial, Financial Management 36%. So, it, in the life of all the scores that we're doing, this is a, on the higher end of the scores. And I'm just going to insert a personal note here, which I don't usually do, but I feel a real sense of urgency for getting Mental Health Programs in our schools. You know, we've seen such a rise in violence with young people and I just feel like we should be doing everything we can to be identifying young people who need intervention and I just feel like, there are some questions about specific details that I think we can be working out, but I just feel like this is an urgent

matter and I feel personally that this is really appropriate for ARPA funds to support. So that's, I don't usually take the personal soapbox, but I just, I feel strongly about this. So, I'd love to open this up to questions from other Legislators or comments from other Legislators on the committee. Legislator Sperry.

**Legislator Sperry:** Thank you, Chair. I know one of the questions that came up yesterday in Ways and Means was, you know, we obviously want this to be a sustainable program, and we want it to run for years to come and I know that that was one of the questions. You know, obviously, we're planting a seed, but we want to grow a tree. Right? And I know, Johanna, that you had said that there will be money, other funding sources, and I'm just wondering if you know, you know, sustainably like what we could be applying for, like down the road? I know that there's different types of grants and funds that come up year to year depending on budgets and need and all of that but is there anything right now on your radar that you think would be also supplement this?

**Deputy Executive Contreras:** Yeah. So, the main thing that we are tracking now is the bipartisan deal that seems to be coming through at the Federal level at the Senate, which they've said, at least, according to the framework, that it'll include additional funding for Mental Health supports in schools specifically. So, we'll be tracking that. I pretty sure there's definitely an RFP that's open at the state level now for Mental Health in schools but I'd have to double check on how many years that is for. But we would look for every opportunity at either the state or the federal level. And then if not, we could always have a conversation about also putting county funding toward it for 2024.

**Chairman Criswell:** Thank you, other Legislators on the committee? Legislator Levine.

**Legislator Levine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a comment and a question. First, I want, I would, you know, the comment, I will join you on that soapbox. In terms of thinking that right now, especially as a time, I mean, mental health in schools, I think is always a priority, but I think especially coming out of COVID it's really taken a toll on, on a lot of people, students and staff. And I think that right now, ARPA money is most certainly, I think appropriate to be used for, you know, for the for the issues that COVID has raised in schools relating to mental health. So, I most certainly agree with you on that on that point. So, I will happily join you on that soapbox. My question to the Deputy County Executive just would be in terms of I mean, I know obviously, what was budgeted here, in terms of, you know, the number of teams and the, and you know, their kind of geographic reach that they were kind of anticipating to be covering, kind of, it's a bit of a related question to what Legislator Sperry was talking about in terms of future funding opportunities, and, and, and in terms of long-term funding of this program, what is it. Has it been kind of gamed out to see if there's a greater need than what is kind of anticipated? You know, what, what's been budgeted already? If it's found to be to be a higher need, more staff needed, is there a kind of a contingency on that in the proposal?

**Deputy Executive Contreras:** That's a great question. Um, I think, so we would start to have that dialogue with the school districts and one of the things that Dr. Khoury, who's a superintendent at BOCES is mentioned to me was that all the school districts have increased their capacity as well, during the school day, in terms for psychologists and social workers. So, I



think this would be the bridge between the school and the home and the ability to provide the youth with services in their community. But I think between what we're doing with the county and what the school districts are doing, hopefully that would meet the, any increased need that there is. But so, we haven't specifically gamed out any like funding option if there turns out to be even more need than there is. But this is a pretty big scope, just to begin with, just in the sense of having 10 people dedicated. Sorry, if the, I'm not sure if I answered your question, but I think it's a really it's a good point to kind of just keep in mind.

**Legislator Levine:** Most certainly did. I appreciate the answer. Thank you very much.

**Chairman Criswell:** Thank you. Any other Legislators on the committee? Any other Legislators on the call? All right, hearing none, I'm going to actually bring this to a vote. So, all in favor, favor of this resolution, please say aye.

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairman Criswell:** Any opposed? The resolution passes unanimously. Excellent. Thank you for that. Thank you again for your work on this Deputy Executive Contreras. Really.

**Deputy Executive Contreras:** Thanks so much. Thank you all. Really appreciate it.

**Chairman Criswell:** Thank you. All right, moving along. New business. See, do we have any forthcoming resolutions in the business? I don't see anything forthcoming but there's several old business, there's several resolutions and old business that I just want to remind us of things that we've been talking about that kind of have floated away and I want to bring them back into our view so that we're remembering what we've been talking about. So uh, um, the projects that I have listed and Deputy Executive Kelly, please remind me of anything that I don't have on my list here, if I miss something, but I have the food securities contractual agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension at 350,000; two community kitchens, which we have budgeted right now at 500,000; we're talking about the main streets program that was presented to us by Tim Weidemann, that's a \$2 million; we're talking about the green home retrofit and workforce development that was presented to us by Dennis Doyle and that's a million dollars. And I have a note that says this program was proposed as three years, \$1 million annually in the adopted 22 to a 27 Capital Improvement Program. Are there any, and then there's a few Legislative Priorities that we have, not, haven't been presented yet, which is, we had a couple other ideas and workforce development programming and then some further funding for municipalities. We had talked about some generators or traffic, supporting traffic safety, I believe it was. Is there anything that I'm missing that anybody's remembering that we have been talking about? Yes, Legislator Nolan.

**Legislator Nolan:** Thank you. Yes. We brought to you in conceptual form but haven't presented a request formally yet for assistance for farmers in Ulster County.

**Chairman Criswell:** Correct, yes, thank you. Yeah, I was actually really inspired by that conversation. I had a conversation with the Deputy Executive Kelly, which kind of was talking about it was like the Circle of Life conversation sort of thing, where we talked about the growing

of the food, the getting the food to the introduction of it, and then distribution of it. So really, you know, how do we close that full circle so that we can be supporting all of those three kind of runs of, of that food cycle production? Legislator Levine.

**Legislator Levine:** Yes, thanks Mr. Chairman. In relation to I guess, the circle of life, the food, food production, my understanding was, at least proposed about the meat processing facility. Correct? That's, that is, that still potentially on the table as well? A different part of the food cycle, but a food cycle nonetheless?

**Chairman Criswell:** Absolutely. Yeah, so Amber, are you jotting these down somewhere just, yeah? Perfect. So, I just want to make sure that we don't have any great ideas that get, get lost in the mix. And I want to actually kind of accelerate some of these so we can get them into form where we can actually look at them, question them, and get them into resolution form, so we can vote on them and move them forward. So. Deputy Executive Kelly, you're awfully quiet tonight. Do you have, are you in another meeting right now with us?

**Deputy Executive Kelly:** No, no Chair, I am fully present. So, I think that I have a meeting with Legislator Nolan, Jake, and Nate from our team to discuss the farms program so that'll be happening in short order. And I guess, the park, the parks program that Legislator Stewart was discussing, I know in Ways and Means and some, maybe no sorry, it was Public Works, where they discussed the potential for paring down the program to see if that would be more to other Legislators liking. So, I have talked to him about that and I don't know if it's there yet but I mean, I think that there's something conceptually there. I would also say part of what these funds have been for, and I think Johanna highlighted it with the program for mental health in schools is I know that we've all been very much focused on the resiliency and building for the future aspect, but there is a recovery aspect of these funds, and it was intended to kind of mitigate the short-term impacts of the pandemic. Mental health in schools, I think, is one of those important programs where kids especially, I would say in middle school, have really felt the, you know, the trauma that came along with being isolated for two years. I also think that one of the resolutions that's forward, Legislator Erner put forward is an interesting concept of looking at our transit system, and who our transit systems serves. So, part of the research that we're doing on the resolution, we have certain FDA rules, we have certain state rules regarding our funding and our fare box but I just don't know if maybe there's an opportunity for using ARP funds or it could be other county funds to also look at the issue that he's highlighted. So, I guess there are a lot of good lists out there And I think that I'm hoping that we're still open to, to another good idea of, if a legislator or somebody from the community, or even the Exec's office comes up with something that, with respect to the nine and a half million, we have left, that maybe there is something that does arise over the next few months or so.

**Chairman Criswell:** I think we're open to all good ideas until the balance is zero.

**Deputy Executive Kelly:** That works for me.

**Chairman Criswell:** And I know that we are also in conversation about, as it shakes out with real costs, what's then left? So, so I think that there will be a moment where we're like, oh, there's an extra bit of money, let's revive one of these that we weren't able to fund previously and see if

we can maybe bring that back. I'm sure there'll be those kinds of conversations that happen. Legislator Sperry, I saw you had your hand up.

**Legislator Sperry:** Um, yeah, I was just gonna give an update on the meat processing conversation, because I've been sitting on those meetings. And basically, we're just looking at a lot of different options. There was a presentation given by a private business that wants to move into Ulster County, but not doing the slaughter portion. The slaughter portion would be taking place in another county, and then they're looking for real estate and Ulster County to do like, packing and shipping, more as like a distribution center. Which is, helps, you know, but it's not like the answer that Legislator Litts is looking for. So, we, we reconvened last week, and we talked about some other options. So, it's still a conversation that's going. I have no idea how much money we would need, if we need any money, but we are working on it. And then I did have a few different conversations with some of my colleagues in the Legislator, Legislature and also at Cornell, about supporting our farms, either through purchasing CSAs, or doing some type of synergy where we're also supporting the farms, but also getting food to folks that need it, right? So, I would love to continue that conversation. Legislator Hewitt and I have been talking a lot about food sovereignty. And so, we want to kind of like tease that idea out a little bit more, but I feel like it's definitely a priority. So, we'll see how we can get there.

**Chairman Criswell:** Thank you. Any other Legislators have thoughts on projects or things that I missed in this conversation or our list of things that we've been talking about? Yes, Legislator Greene.

**Legislator Greene:** Thank you. I just want to be sure I'm not on mute.

**Chairman Criswell:** You're fine.

**Legislator Greene:** Okay. First of all, I want to I would like to support a, the discussion about farming and encourage where it's appropriate, a mix of solar on farm so that the farms have income, but can continue to farm by putting the solar on more marginal land and, in, that income can help farmers to keep farming the really prime farmland, the best farmland on their property. But the reason I raised my hand is that I've been bringing up the, the project that is for energy retrofits for low and moderate income households, as a pilot that would include workforce development and workforce training for the thousands, and I think it may be hundreds of thousands of buildings that are going to need to be retrofitted to meet the state's goals of emission reduction, and in this case, the emission reduction in the case agrivoltaics renewable energy generation. But um, Dennis Doyle, Director Doyle, did a really excellent presentation. And I haven't seen any paperwork. I also remember him saying that the project was 350,000 and today I heard a million and without paperwork or backup. Um, so I would like to request from whoever is appropriate, I don't know whether it's Mr. Kelly or, I have written to Director Doyle. I haven't heard back and several other people have and I, believe me, I understand how busy the planning department is. But I would like to understand their process to get that project reviewed and ranked and get it moving before the money runs out.

**Chairman Criswell:** Thank you, I believe Deputy Director Kelly has...

**Legislator Greene:** Chris Kelly may have a direct...

**Deputy Executive Kelly:** We plan on, so Dennis gave an informal presentation and he's going to make a more formal presentation, and we do plan on submitting a resolution so I believe, I believe it's going to be for July but I'll follow up with Mr. Doyle on that one.

**Chairman Criswell:** Great thank you for that update I appreciate that. Thank you Legislator Greene for your...

**Legislator Greene:** Would you get that for me?

**Chairman Criswell:** Yeah, we'll make sure you're in the loop on that.

**Legislator Greene:** I would like to request that somebody reach out.

**Deputy Executive Kelly:** Yeah, I'll reach out, Legislator Greene.

**Chairman Criswell:** Great, thank you very much. Um anybody else have anything? Yes, Legislator Erner.

**Legislator Erner:** Oops. Okay. Thank you, Chair Criswell. I love Legislator Greene's reminder about the creative and necessary economic and environmental justice-oriented uses of farmland. I'd love to be in on Legislator Sperry's conversations with Legislator Hewitt about food sovereignty and other aspects of, of farming that you've been talking about with Legislator Litts. And I just like to thank Deputy Executive Kelly as well, I would, that's a great idea. I would love that we could use ARPA funds to pilot the, the, the fare, the fare, the fare, the zeroing out of fares on UCAT, as we figure out other creative ways that we're going to need to do that. If we want to do that, that. I wonder if we might not and it would only cost, probably we could do for about a million bucks, three years of fare holiday, something like that, if, with FDA approval and all the other things we would need to do. I wonder if we could even do a pilot of some, some, some of the other things we've talked about needing in order to service the mass transit needs better. Like I know, we need drivers, some kind of training pilot program for BOCES Community College and or other educational institutions to train, recruit. And if there is enough driving right now, maybe just pilot introducing some routes. Think about creative partnerships with other carriers that may, that serve our county. We know Trailways goes a lot of places in the county, but it's not really affordable, in general, the fares. That's about it. Thank you.

**Chairman Criswell:** Thank you very much. And I just want to urge Legislators, if you have ideas, get them to paper, get budgets, you know, make it hit, make the rubber hit the road here because 9.5 million is going to go so we need to see an actual proposal and, and be able to question it and move it back and forth. So, I just encourage you to pick those great ideas and moving forward. All right. If I don't see any other hands, I'm gonna ask for a motion to adjourn. Look at that. 5:31.

**Legislator Levine:** There's another hand Mr. Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman Criswell:** Oh, who's the hand?

**Legislator Sperry:** Nate.

**Chairman Criswell:** Oh, Nate. I didn't see your hand. I'm sorry. Hi Nate.

**Director of Resilience Litwin:** I put it up right at the last minute. I just wanted to share this is dovetailing off of Legislative Erner. It's only preliminary research but our team is as looked a little bit into the, you know, resolution for no fares and it I think it might be helpful for the committee, there is I did see in Boston, they started something in March of this year for two years of no fares. And there's some press releases out there about that. And I thought that was very interesting. I think also, you know, diving into the rules, like it would be very interesting to look at data on ridership, for example. So those are just two areas, maybe seeds to be planted as we discuss this and figure this out. That I think could be very helpful to this. Yep.

**Chairman Criswell:** That's great. And if you'd like to share those articles, I'm sure that committee would like to like to read them if you could pass those over to the Clerk Feaster and she'll send them all our way. All right now for real last call. Legislator Nolan.

**Legislator Nolan:** Just a quick add on, on that. Thank you, Chair Criswell. I am interested in those holidays for fares if that's the best we can do. But I think we should strive to do something that would be sustainable, that we can build into the system, that the FDA is happy with. So, we don't lose funding from federal sources or state sources inadvertently. And I, you know, it's past time for us to do that work so I really appreciate Legislator Erner pushing us to really pick it up and do it and I think that the ARPA funding might be a very good transition. Again, the idea of maybe a pilot program, but it should be a pilot for something that could continue and one of the things that might help us is the possibility of selling month, month long or some longer-term passes, um, that we could then maybe, I'm thinking maybe, partner with some nonprofit organization or organizations in the county, who could cover that cost, and we can then report that as ridership. So as this team is trying to put together the request, I'd love to be a part of those conversations. And that's the direction that I think might be helpful. I know that the county already does provide some of those month-long passes to people who are in the mental health system or served by programs in the county and so I'm, I would be hopeful that we might be able to build on those programs.

**Chairman Criswell:** Thank you for that valuable input. Appreciate that. All right, Legislator Nolan, I think you have the last word there. So, I would like to thank you again for your, your attention, and I would call for a motion to adjourn.

**Legislator Corcoran:** Motion to adjourn.

**Chairman Criswell:** Second?

**Legislator Sperry:** Second.

**Chairman Criswell:** All in favor.

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairman Criswell:** Thank you. Everybody have a great evening.

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**Time:** 5:45 PM

**Respectfully submitted:** Amber Feaster

**Minutes Approved:** June 29, 2022