

**Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 28, 2007 @ 6:00 PM
Gateway Bldg., 1st Floor Board Room**

I. Call To Order

Charles DeGraff called the meeting to order @ 6:05 PM.

II. Attendance (Quorum was present)

Charles DeGraff (President); Nancy Johnson (Vice-President); Phyllis Beyers; Randy Bond; William Rudner; Chet Warren

Excused

Amanda Fletcher, Fred Moore, Gerald Bixler

Staff

Charles Odingbe (Executive Director/CEO); Kelly Zachary (HR & Safety Manager); Glenna Caruso (Planning & Community Outreach Manager); Mark Finnicum (Director, Maintenance); Carole Kuczynski (Director, Finance & Administration); Tammy Marie Chavers (Executive Assistant)

Legal Counsel

Atty. Robert Murphy (Black McCuskey)

Other

Karl Lucas, SCATS (Stark County Area Transportation Study)
Lindsay Menapace (WHBC)

III. Approval of Minutes

1. Work Session Minutes (January 10, 2007)

Mr. Bond moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Warren seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

2. Board Meeting Minutes (January 24, 2007)

Mr. Bond moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Warren seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

IV. Board Committee Reports (No reports)

V. Departmental Reports

Transportation As submitted

Maintenance As submitted

Finance As submitted

Ms. Kuczynski passed out the TDP, Transit Development Plan, for the board's approval. She asked that they review the plan

and come prepared for discussion and approval for the March board meeting.

Ms. Kuczynski also requested that the board complete a questionnaire for the Auditor's office. This questionnaire examined subject matter of business done with related parties for the year 2006.

SARTA's Auditors will work to complete the audit by end of March.

Mr. DeGraff made special mention that the sales tax revenue was better than was originally projected.

Ms. Beyers requested that the Board be given monthly report on employees travel. The report should contain purpose of travel or training and total cost to the agency.

HR & Safety As submitted

Mr. Rudner requested the constant number of employees and the actual number of employees for each department be made known in each board packet.

Planning & Community Outreach As submitted

VI. Communication
From the Executive Director...
Ridership

Mr. Odingbe informed the Board that we continue to have challenges with passenger count. He mentioned that staff believes all passengers are counted despite the discrepancies and falling ridership. Staff will continue to investigate this phenomenon and report to the board at a future date. DeGraff suggested that SARTA investigate to see if the manufacturer would take responsibility to rectify a solution if it becomes evident it is a fare box issue.

Alliance Transit Center Construction Project

Mr. Odingbe promised to update the board with any new developments as they arise. Currently there is no new start date for this project.

Wal-Mart

We are still anticipating authorization from Wal-Mart to place a pullout at Wal-Mart.

Trapeze

Staff will commence pilot testing on some fixed-route buses, and we are still expecting to complete full deployment no later than August 2007. Testing on Paratransit buses are now complete and all systems are at “go” for this phase of the project.

APTA

Mr. Odingbe made known that he would be attending APTA’s Legislative Conference in Washington, DC in March 2007. He is going as a member of OPTA delegation and as an APTA Awards committee member. We will be presenting information to legislators on the pathetic state of transit funding in Ohio. Also, he will take that opportunity to lobby for the Tuscarawas Transportation Corridor project. We hope that our efforts yield more funding for transit projects in Ohio.

State Funding for Transit

OPTA met with some legislators regarding Regional Transit Authorities membership legislation. We will be meeting with other legislators to continue talks on more State funding for Ohio transit providers. This meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2007 in Columbus and will be in cooperation with Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

VII. For Your Information

Kudos to the Finance department, directed by of Ms. Kuczynski, for receiving the CAFR award for the 3rd year in a row!

Mr. Odingbe made special notice to the letter submitted by rider Betty Taylor for a job well done. He added that successful and positive changes have only been possible because of SARTA’S diligent, excellent, and supportive board and staff.

Mr. Odingbe met with Doug Eadie, a guru on board relationships. For ½ day they discussed staff relationship with board and CEO/Board relationship.

VIII. Old Business

Mr. Warren inquired if the meetings and hearings on Fare Increase Change were still being conducted. Mr. Odingbe answered that they were now finished. Most questions posed at these events were unrelated to the fare increase changes. Staff was unable to respond to questions that were unrelated to the fare tool changes.

Mr. Odingbe reported that he is seeking a retraction be made by the Alliance Review for misquoted information as it relates to fare increase changes. The stated intent for increases was not accurate.

IX. Resolutions

A. A Resolution Authorizing The Continuation Of Huntington Bank Services

Mr. Bond moved for the adoption of this resolution. Mr. Warren seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Warren moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM. Mr. Rudner seconded the motion.

March's Work Session/Board Meeting will be held in the SARTA Board Room on March 21, 2007 @ 6 PM.
