

**Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes ~Update
April 22, 2009 @ 6:00PM**

Mr. DeGraff called the meeting to order at 6:11pm.

**Attendance
Board**

Chuck DeGraff (President), Nancy Johnson (Vice-President), Phyllis Beyers, Jerry Bixler, Ron Macala, Chet Warren

Excused

Amanda Fletcher, James Reinhard

Staff

Thomas Bernabei (Executive Director, Interim), James Warner (Planning & Community Outreach Manager), Everett Todd (Transportation Planning Administrator), Kelly Zachary (HR/Safety Manager), Mark Finnicum (Director, Maintenance), Carole Kuczynski (Director, Finance & Administration), Deborah Hill (Finance Manager), Fred Baker (Coach Operator), Omar Abdullah (Coach Operator/Union Stewart), Robin Miller (Transit Supervisor), Tom Williams (Transportation Manager), Tammy Marie Chavers (Executive Assistant)

Legal Counsel

Michelle Schuld (Black McCuskey)

Other

Cody Hoffaker (Citizen)

Approval of Minutes

March 25, 2009 ~ Meeting

Mr. Macala moved for the adoption of the minutes. Mr. Bixler seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

April 8, 2009 ~ Work Session/Meeting

Mr. Bixler moved for the adoption of the minutes. Mr. Macala seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Employee of the Month

The board congratulated Fred Baker, Coach Operator, on his accomplishment as April Employee of the Month. Ms. Johnson commented that our coach operators are our first line of public relations and wished to thank Mr. Baker for his customer service.

Departmental Reports

- **Transportation** ~ Teresa Thompson ~ As submitted
- **Maintenance** ~ Mark Finnicum ~ As submitted
- **Finance** ~ Carole Kuczynski ~ As submitted

- **HR/Safety** ~ Kelly Zachary ~ As submitted
- **Planning & Community Outreach** ~ James Warner ~ As submitted
Everett Todd gave a presentation on the proposed route changes for June 2009. Information was gathered by the Route Committee from RLS, Transit Supervisors, drivers, and riders to select which routes would be altered. With these route changes, we expect to provide better service to our riders by cutting and adding routes. Public meetings and hearings will be held to hear the public's concerns prior to making these changes.

Communication from the Executive Director/CEO, Interim Budget Update

Sales tax revenues have declined by approximately 2.1% for the first four months of the year compared to the same period last year. The loss in revenues is currently offset by other reductions in expenses which have been made to date. SARTA staff will continue to regularly review the budget. SARTA staff is considering alternatives if additional budgetary cuts need to be made, depending on future trends in sales tax revenues; these include possibly reducing weekend and holiday service and/or implementing the previously approved fare increase. SARTA staff will be asking the Board to approve an amended budget within the next several months.

Ridership Survey

The data from the ridership survey is currently being analyzed. Further information is to follow.

Northeast Ohio Labor Management

Mr. Omar Abdullah and Mr. Bernabei met with Greg Fuhrer, Director of the Northeast Ohio Labor Management program, whose office is located at Stark State College. Mr. Bernabei is seeking to improve labor negotiations, trust, and communications between management and the union. Plans are to schedule a first meeting in May and monthly meetings thereafter. This process is funded by grants and should be at no cost to the agency.

Additional Grants Applications

Mr. Bernabei informed the Board that SARTA has submitted three additional grant applications to Congressman Bocceiri's office for the Jackson Transit Center, bus pull-off lanes and funding for the Mahoning Road Corridor project.

FTA Triennial Review

FTA will be in the office on April 23, 2009 for a day and a half for the Triennial review.

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. DeGraff introduced Ms. Michelle Schuld from Black McCuskey, who is serving as legal counsel to the Board for this evening's meeting.

The Board requested a demonstration of the Trapeze system. This will be scheduled for a future meeting.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 16

A Resolution To Authorize An Agreement Between The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority And The Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS)

Mr. Bixler moved to adopt the resolution. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

*****1st Executive Session*****

7:01 - 7:27PM

To discuss pending litigation

Mr. Bixler motioned to enter executive session. Mr. Macala seconded the motion. Roll call. All answered "yes"
Mr. Bernabei asked Ms. Kuczynski and Ms. Hill to stay. Mr. Bixler motioned to conclude the executive session. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. Roll call. All answered "yes."

*****2nd Executive Session*****

7:35 - 7:42PM

To discuss the CEO Search

Mr. Bixler motioned to enter executive session. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. Roll call. All answered "yes." Mr. Bixler motioned to conclude the executive session. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. Roll call. All answered "yes."

Ms. Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting @ 7:42pm. Mr. Warren seconded the motion.