

Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
Board Of Trustees Meeting
August 27, 2008 @ 6:00 PM
Gateway, Board Room

Mr. DeGraff called the meeting to order @ 6:00pm.

Attendance

Board (Quorum Present)

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

Excused

Amanda Fletcher, Jim Reinhard

Staff

Charles Odingbe (Executive Director/CEO), James Warner (Planning & Community Outreach Manager), Jerilynn Seymour (Coach Operator), Mark Finnicum (Director, Maintenance), Larry Barringer (Coach Operator), Chuck Koppes (Project Manager Assistant), Tom Williams (Transportation Manager), Lynn Hedderson (Training Supervisor), Dana Featheringham (Coach Operator), Michelle Harrison (Coach Operator), Teresa Thompson (Director, Transportation), Carole Kuczynski (Director, Finance & Administration), Rhonda Grimwood (Coach Operator), Tammy Marie Chavers (Executive Assistant)

Legal Representation

Gust Callas (Black McCuskey), James Wherley, Jr. (Black McCuskey)

Other

Karl Lucas (SCATS), Stephanie Ujheyli (Alliance Review), Robert Wang (Canton Repository)

Mr. DeGraff acknowledged Dana Featheringham as the August 2008 Employee of the Month.

Approval/Correction of Minutes

July 23, 2008 (Meeting)

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

August 13, 2008 (Work Session)

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

As part of Ms. Beyers Personnel Committee Report, it was determined that the entire board would receive a copy of Mr. Odingbe's self-evaluation as well as a copy of his contract.

Departmental Reports

- Transportation – Teresa Thompson (As submitted)
Ms. Hedderson reported that the Concert in the Park was solely operated by regular time operators. This endeavor along with others, help to reduce mileage, wages, and fuel consumption.

She also informed the Board that the old paddles have now been replaced. In addition, riders used our services more this year than any other year. Data for routes and detours was recorded to aid in making next year easier.

To date, 82 Coach Operators and 3 Maintenance personnel have gone through the "Smith System Training" to assist in avoiding future preventable accidents. Safety posters have been hung in the garage to remind Coach Operators to have spotters when backing up and posters have been hung on buses asking riders to stand up when wheelchairs are loaded on to the bus.

Mr. Williams educated the Board that Ms. Harrison, Ms. Grimwood, Mr. Barringer, and Ms. Seymour are now a part of the new Transit Operator/Supervisor Mentoring Program. The purpose of this position is to create an opportunity to prepare and select candidates for future full-time positions as Transit Supervisors. After being trained, evaluated, and assessed for 6 months it will be determined if they can perform the duties in a full-time role.

- Maintenance – Mark Finnicum (As Submitted)
Tank Integrity has finished cleaning 3 of our 5 tanks and has re-filtered our fuel. We plan to use this same company to service us for preventative measures. In the future, it is intended to purchase one large new tank that will cost approximately \$1.5 million.
- Finance – Carole Kuczynski (As submitted)
The Auditors have rescheduled to come to next month's Board meeting.

- HR & Safety – Kelly Zachary (As submitted)
Handicap Reimbursement????????????????????????????
- Planning & Community Outreach – James Warner (As submitted)

Mr. Warner offered several reasons why there was an increase in the number of complaints for the first time since October 2004. These reasons include:

- New class of drivers. Riders become accustomed to old drivers.
- Ridership is up.
- Staff is taking more diligence to track complaints and compliments.

Ms. Jenni Johnson will make a presentation at the Board's next meeting on the new Travel Training Project. The soul purpose of the project is to train paratransit riders who are able to ride fixed routes educated on how to ride fixed routes properly.

Poems that have been posted on our buses were done by the request of a poet out of Alliance. They provided all the production, so there was no charge for this service.

The Board commended staff that the board reports have improved overall.

Communication from the Executive Director...

Ridership

Ridership is up by 8%. Fixed route ridership is up and our Paratransit and shuttle services have decreased.

Alliance Transit Center

It is not likely that the Alliance Transit Center will open in September. Conversations are still taking place to see who is responsible and what plan is best to take regarding the exit. The current proposed suggestion will change the scope of the project and will require Board approval. Discussion followed.

Trapeze

The Trapeze project is inching forward.

Budget 2008

Staff will be seeking Board approval for revisions made to the 2008 budget today. The 2009 is almost complete. For the first time each department has totally generated its own budget.

The Board was made aware that healthcare benefits may increase by up to 45% next year, which will affect our budget adversely. Communication is taking place with staff to mitigate any unfavorable impact on the quality of care and our 2009 budget.

SARTA changed its approach to SCATS for support with funding. It is not a necessity for operational funds currently. SARTA asked for funding for new buses. Presently they have committed to grant \$1.5 million dollars towards buses.

Resolutions

FOR THE OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM FRINGE BENEFIT PICK-UP PLAN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES

Mr. Warren motioned to adopt this resolution. Mr. Macala seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

FOR THE OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM SALARY REDUCTION PICK-UP PLAN FOR UNION

Mr. Bixler motioned to adopt this resolution. Mr. Warren seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED FIXED ROUTE SERVICE CHANGES TO GO INTO EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

Mr. Moore motioned to adopt this resolution. Mr. Warren seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SURPLUS OBSOLETE FIXED ASSET INVENTORY

Mr. Warren motioned to adopt this resolution. Mr. Moore seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING REVISIONS TO THE SALARY RANGES

Mr. Warren motioned to adopt this resolution. Mr. Bixler seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT NON-BARGAINING SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Warren motioned to adopt this resolution. Ms. Beyers seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF COACH OPERATORS ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Mr. Warren motioned to adopt this resolution. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

FOR 2008 BUDGET AMENDMENT APPROVAL

Mr. Bixler motioned to adopt this resolution. Mr. Warren seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

A RESOLUTION THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE STARK AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY CERTIFY AND ACCEPT THE GATEWAY RENOVATION PROJECT

Mr. Moore motioned to adopt this resolution. Mr. Macala seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Warren moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned @ 7:10pm.