

**Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
Board of Trustees Meeting
September 26, 2007 @ 6:00 PM
Gateway Bldg., Board Room**

Attendance

Chuck DeGraff (President), Nancy Johnson (Vice-President), Phyllis Beyers, Jerry Bixler, Randy Bond, Amanda Fletcher, Bill Rudner

Excused

Fred Moore, Chet Warren

Staff

Charles Odimgbe (Director/CEO), Mark Finnicum (Director, Maintenance), Anita Lopes (Proline Reservationist), Carole Kuczynski (Director, Finance & Administration), Teresa Thompson (Planning & Community Outreach Manager), Tammy Marie Chavers (Executive Assistant)

Legal Counsel

Atty. Robert Murphy (Black McCusky)

Other

Karl Lucas (SCATS)

John Nielsen (OTRP)

Approval/Correction of Minutes (August 22, 2007)

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

Citizens Communications

John Nielsen, the Chief Executive Officer of Ohio Transit Risk Pool (OTRP), came to inform the board of the proposed changes in the amendments of the OTRP bylaws. The proposed changes are designed to:

- More greatly empower board by allowing greater flexibility in making key decisions
- Tie voting rights to participation in liability program
- Clarify rules of exit from association & better protect members from unexpected departures from pool
- Accommodate realities of full time CEO & Staff
- Recognize realities of a "Truncated Market Cycle"

Currently Mr. Odimgbe is the President of the OTRP Board. Ms. Thompson is his alternate.

Departmental Reports

Transportation – Tom Williams (As submitted)

Route changes are being explored for Alliance to allow shorter travel time to get to Canton.

Maintenance – Mark Finnicum (As submitted)

Finance – Carole Kuczynski (As submitted)

Mr. Bond inquired about our relationship with Perry Trustees. Ms. Kuczynski answered that we joined together to complete the corridor at Whipple and Tuscarawas.

Mr. Rudner asked about the status of our search for a new auditor. Ms. Kuczynski stated that only 1 firm submitted a bid so far.

HR/Safety – Kelly Zachary (As submitted)

Mr. Odingbe informed the Board that advertisement for jobs are listed on the website, the Canton Repository, Akron Beacon Journal, and sometimes on college campuses.

Planning & Community Outreach – Teresa Thompson (As submitted)

Ms. Beyers complimented Ms. Thompson that her report was easier to read.

Communication from the Executive Director

Mr. Odingbe made known that the Alliance project has slowed down for approximately 6 weeks due to re-design because of the steel. There has been no new timeline issued. Mr. Odingbe also commended Mr. Finnicum and Mr. Koppes for having done a fine job managing this project.

The progress with Trapeze is satisfactory at this time. If the new build is proven to be stable, this is the system that will be used.

We are still in search for a lobbyist. We decided not to enter into an agreement with Roetzel & Andress.

Absenteeism has proven to be an issue with the same group of people based on reports reviewed. Department heads will now be responsible to address these concerns.

Resolutions

A Resolution Authorizing The Executive Director To Close Out The Lincoln Way Corridor Association Beautification Project

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

A Resolution To Authorize The Executive Director To Advertise For Bids For The Purchase Of Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel

Mr. Rudner moved for the adoption of this resolution. Mr. Bixler seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

A Resolution Authorizing The Executive Director To Advertise For Bids For The Services Bus-Side Advertising

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

A Resolution To Close Out The Contract To Purchase Oddessy Fareboxes From General Farebox Incorporated (GFI) For A Total Cost Of \$1, 259, 320.73

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

A Resolution Authorizing The Executive Director To Close Out The Wal-Mart Pullout Project On Harmont Ave

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

A Resolution Authorizing The Executive Director To Implement Non-Bargaining Employees 2007 Pay Adjustments In The Sum Of \$81, 498.69

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

Mr. Rudner made the Board aware that this adjustment was already anticipated in the budget.

Old Business

Ms. Fletcher inquired about the possibility of our agency using alternative fuel. Mr. Odingbe stated that the Bus manufacturers are not investing a great amount of money into to the development of alternative fuel buses. Most American manufacturers are moving in the direction of using Hybrid vehicles. As such, that is the direction SARTA will move in as well.

New Business

Ms. Johnson commented that the "Employee of The Month" gesture was a nice idea.

Mr. Odingbe notified the Board that Mr. Tom Williams is filling the role as our interim Administrator of Transportation while still managing the Proline division.

Adjournment

Ms. Johnson moved for the adjournment of the meeting at 7:20 PM. Ms. Fletcher seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.