

**Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 30, 2008 @ 6:00pm
Gateway, Board Room**

Mr. DeGraff called the meeting to order @ 6:01pm.

**Attendance
Board**

Chuck DeGraff (President), Nancy Johnson (Vice-President), Phyllis Beyers, Randy Bond, Amanda Fletcher, Fred Moore, Bill Rudner, Chet Warren

Excused

Fred Moore

Staff

Charles Odingbe (Executive Director/CEO), Tom Williams (Transportation Administrator), Teresa Thompson (Planning & Community Outreach Manager), Kelly Zachary (HR/Safety Manager), Anita Lopes (Proline Reservationist), Carole Kuczynski (Director, Finance & Administration), Chrissy Wey (HR/Safety Administrator), Tammy Marie Chavers (Executive Assistant)

Legal Counsel

Gust Callas (Black McCuskey)

Other

Karl Lucas (SCATS)

Mr. Odingbe announced January's Employee of the Month, Chrissy Wey. The Board congratulated her for achieving this award.

Mr. Odingbe informed the board that Bob Dudley (Transit Supervisor), passed away. Also worthy to note, SARTA staff donated over 2,000 hours of sick time, vacation time, and floating holidays to Mr. Dudley

Approval/Correction of Minutes (November 28, 2008)

Mr. Bond moved for the adoption of the minutes. Mr. Rudner seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Departmental Reports

- Transportation – Tom Williams (As submitted)
Mr. Williams attributes the high number of no shows to weather and school closings. A lot of riders assume that we know they do not need rides based on school closings and etc., so they won't call.
- Maintenance – Mark Finnicum

Mr. Odingbe stated Mr. Finnicum is in Hayward, California overseeing the construction of our new buses. Moreover, Road Calls did increase because Maintenance now handles bus exchanges to decrease the amount of overtime in Transportation.

- Finance - Carole Kuczynski (As submitted)
- HR/Safety – Kelly Zachary (As submitted)
- Planning & Community Development – Teresa Thompson (As submitted)

Communications from the Executive Director/CEO...

APTA

SARTA applied for several grants through the Bush economic package for transportation to upgrade buses and replace existing parts. The total amount applied for was \$11 million and there is no requirement for local matches.

The APTA Legislative Conference is in March. City Officials and other involved constituents will be traveling to D.C. to push for earmarks.

Ridership

There was less than 1% drop in ridership for the year of 2007.

Alliance Transit Center Construction Project

FTA is currently withholding grant payment due to an error with our Equal Employment Opportunity paperwork and proposed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment pending with the state. We have completed all internal paperwork and are awaiting word on our amendment with the state. Work conducted at the project site is commensurate to what we could pay out of our operating funds. We will draw down all monies as soon as we get the TIP amendment.

Trapeze

The Trapeze project continues to move forward as projected since installing the latest version of the CAD systems. Based on staff feedback, the new build continues to prove to be reliable and we have approximately nine fully functional systems currently on the road. Nonetheless, progress is slow due to Staley's ability to retrofit only one bus per day. We do have one mechanic working with Trapeze and Staley's personnel to both learn the system and facilitate installation.

Budget 2008

As the Board is fully aware, our projection for the 2008 budget will not sustain the increases in diesel fuel costs. To that end, we are reworking the budget to make sure we are consistent with the agency's first bold step "Operate within Budget." Staff is currently reviewing some options including but not limited to service adjustments to eliminate excessive overtime, in the short run, and viability of outsourcing the entire Paratransit Services. We are preparing a

discussion paper for the Board review and discussions. With the nation already in a mild recession, it is prudent to take a longer view (approximately three years) of our funding abilities and make adjustments now to accommodate any future shortfalls, or until sales tax revenues falls in line with our rising costs. It is anticipated that the discussion paper will be available for board review at the next work session scheduled for February 13, 2008.

Resolutions

A Resolution for Application FY 2008 State Grants

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

A Resolution To Authorize The Executive Director To Enter Into Contract With ER Advertising, LLC For Sale Of Bus Side And Other Advertising Media

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

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:12pm.