

**Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
Board Meeting
May 23, 2007 @ 6:00 PM
SARTA—Gateway, Board Room**

Call To Order

Charles DeGraff called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.

Attendance (Quorum present)

Board

Chuck DeGraff (President), Nancy Johnson (Vice-President), Phyllis Beyers, Gerald Bixler, Randy Bond, William Rudner, Chet Warren

Staff

Charles Odingbe (Executive Director/CEO), Donna Davis (Transit Supervisor), Carole Kuczynski (Director, Finance & Administration), Teresa Thompson (Administrator, Transportation), Kelly Huston (Procurement/Budget Administrator), Linda Stutler (Customer Service Supervisor), Deborah Hill (Manager, Finance), Mark Finnicum (Director, Maintenance), Kelly Zachary (Manager, HR/Safety), Anita Lopes (Customer Service Specialist), Tammy Marie Chavers (Executive Assistant)

Interns

Kellan Roberts, Anthony Massey

Legal Counsel

Atty. Gust Callas (Black McCuskey)

Other

Karl Lucas (SCATS)

Approval/Correction of Minutes

April 25, 2007 (Meeting)

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

May 9, 2007 (Work Session)

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

Citizen Communications

Karl Lucas expressed his appreciation for SARTA's services, especially since gas prices have rocketed. He catches the 81 Express daily.

Departmental Reports

- **Transportation**—Charles Odingbe (As submitted)
- **Maintenance**—Mark Finnicum (As submitted)
- **Finance**—Carole Kuczynski (As submitted)

Ms. Kuczynski announced that we had a clean audit and only verbal suggestions were made. Mr. DeGraff commended Deborah Hill on the alphabetized register.

- **HR/Safety**—Kelly Zachary (As submitted)
The computer is now installed in the lobby for computerized applications. It will show if applicants have basic computer knowledge. Ms. Beyers requested a quote for the insurance premium.
- **Planning & Community Outreach**—Charles Odingbe (As submitted)
Gust Callas, Little Chicago, and Mr. Odingbe are working on a project for “Woody.” This special run would focus on downtown restaurants. Mr. Odingbe stated that “Woody” is available for special runs and regular fixed routes.

Communication from the Executive Director/CEO...

The fair increase has made no impact on ridership. Overall ridership is going up, although special events have decreased in numbers.

The Alliance project is underway. The contractors are concerned with vibrations that may cause the building damage within 2-5 years. There are a couple of options that will be discussed with the contractors. However if damage occurs, the state would be responsible.

Construction on Walmart is still expected to begin after June 4, 2007 unless we hear otherwise. Ms. Johnson posed the question about Walmart disapproving after we begin the project. Mr. Odingbe responded the worst scenario would be to restore the property back to the original condition.

The president of Trapeze is expected at SARTA tomorrow. Some of the delay is attributed to the small number of people working on the project.

Mr. Odingbe announced two interns, Kellan Roberts and Anthony Massey, will be with SARTA for the summer. He also informed the Board that his daughter will intern part-time, with an unpaid status as well. Anita Lopes, our new Customer Service Specialist, was also introduced to the Board.

Mr. Odingbe encouraged the Board to attend one of three Brown bag lunches:

- Friday, May 25, 2007
- Tuesday, May 29, 2007
- Thursday, May 31, 2007

The purpose will be organizational effectiveness, dedicated funding, employee development, better leverage of technology, and a more focus marketing program.

SARTA was recognized with a commendation from the State Senate for the 10th Anniversary.

SARTA also received an award from APTA for the “Best Marketing On A Shoestring.” This award focused on the cheapest marketing plan that produced the great results.

Staff Communication...

Ms. Kuczynski informed the Board that SARTA is working with Kent Stark to offer classes of certification for transit professionals. These classes will be held in our facility.

Ms. Thompson met with area representatives from the Hispanic community. She discovered some of the challenges are not just the language barrier, but the riding process as well. Mr. Odingbe stated that we would continue to investigate the market before we move on with any project. Ms. Beyers suggested SARTA to study Laketran's services, noting the large Hispanic population in their jurisdiction.

For Your Information...

Mr. Odingbe met with Atty. Lewis Atkins of Roetzel & Andress regarding the Bench Signs case. We recently won the appeals case to the state. However it is likely that Bench Signs will try to oppose the decision. Given the years dedicated to this case, Atty. Atkins suggested we sell to a collection agency. No final decisions have been made at this time.

A Resolution Authorizing The Executive Director To Surplus Obsolete Vehicle Inventory And Obsolete Fixed Assets

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

For Security Policy

Mr. Odingbe noted FTA requires this policy to be established and it covers everything from tornados to terrorist attacks.

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

Mr. Warren moved for the adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Bond seconded the motion. The meeting concluded @ 6:47PM.