

**Stark Area Regional Transit Authority  
Board Meeting  
July 25, 2007 @ 6:00 PM  
SARTA—Gateway, Board Room**

**Call To Order**

Charles DeGraff called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**Roll Call**

Board (Quorum present)

Charles DeGraff (President), Phyllis Beyers, Jerry Bixler, Randy Bond, Amanda Fletcher, Bill Rudner

**Excused**

Nancy Johnson (Vice-President), Chet Warren, Fred Moore

**Staff**

Charles Odingbe (Executive Director), Anita Lopes (Customer Service Representative), Kelly Huston (Procurement/Budget Administrator), Carole Kuczynski (Director, Finance & Administration), Teresa Thompson (Administrator of Transportation), Donna Davis (Transit Supervisor), Mark Finnicum (Director, Maintenance), Tammy Marie Chavers (Executive Assistant)

**Legal Representation**

Gust Callas (Black McCuskey)

**Other**

Karl Lucas (SCATS)

Lindsay Menapace (WHBC)

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**Approval/Correction of Minutes**

June 27, 2007 (Meeting)

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

July 11, 2007 (Work Session)

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

**Departmental Reports**

- Transportation – (Teresa Thompson) As submitted

Ms. Beyers commended staff on the decrease of no-shows. Ms. Thompson attributed the efforts to Tom Williams (Proline Supervisor) for making individual calls to riders who repeatedly abandoned rides.

- Maintenance – (Mark Finnicum) As submitted
- Finance – (Carole Kuczynski) As submitted

Ms. Kuczynski informed the Board that staff is currently working on budget revisions. Once the revisions are complete budget planning for 2008 will begin.

- HR/Safety – (Kelly Zachary) As submitted
- Planning & Community Outreach – As submitted

### **Communication from the Executive Director...**

Ridership has gone down we project a 5% decrease through the end of the year. Nonetheless, the agency is still in very good standing concerning ridership when compared to our numbers three years ago.

The Alliance project is still progressing. There have been structural changes to the drawing due to the request for information from the steel manufacturer. We expect these changes will increase the project cost by approximately \$19,000. This increase will neither change the scope of the project nor would it exceed the budget that was originally approved by the Board.

The Trapeze project is still moving forward slowly. The “New Build” on board system is now on one bus and is being tested. If found to be stable, more will be installed on additional buses. Trapeze will be adding two more staff to the project. It is our belief that this will increase the pace of the project tremendously. There is currently only one individual working on the project from Trapeze.

Sheila Connor has agreed to conduct the Board retreat for August 22, 2007. The main objective for the retreat will be to find what new direction the Board would like to take SARTA. Ms. Connor has strongly suggested that the Board meet the night before for pre-treat activities, and then continue the next day. Board will also be asked to answer questions and conduct some pre-testing prior to the meeting.

Mr. Odimgbe reminded the Board that they should start thinking about fundraising ideas for our next levy campaign.

Mr. Odimgbe is still negotiating terms with Mary Anne Walsh of Roetzel & Andress. If terms are agreeable, he will present those terms to the Board prior

to any commitment made by SARTA. Ms. Walsh would advocate on a federal level for funds on behalf of SARTA.

Teresa Thompson will replace Glenna Caruso, who resigned, as the Planning & Community Outreach Manager beginning August 2, 2007.

Currently SARTA is responsible for total costs of the security at our Cornerstone office. Chet Warren will be asked to request assistance from Canton City Schools to defray a portion of the costs to SARTA.

**A Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to provide Free Transportation on all Fixed-Routes on Monday September 10, 2007**

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

Mr. Bond moved for the adjournment of the meeting at 6:40 PM. Mr. Rudner seconded the motion.

**Board Retreat...**

Tuesday, August 21, 2007 @ 6:00 – 9:00PM  
& Wednesday, August 22, 2007 @ 8:00 AM – 6:00PM  
Walsh University  
Barrette Business & Community Center