

Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
Board Of Trustees Work Session/Meeting
October 24, 2007 @ 6:00 PM
Gateway, Board Room

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

Attendance

Board

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

Excused

Amanda Fletcher, Bill Rudner

Staff

Charles Odingbe (Executive Director/CEO), Teresa Thompson (Planning & Community Outreach Manager), Tom Williams (Proline Supervisor/Interim Transportation Administrator), Mark Finnicum (Director, Maintenance), Linda Stutler (Customer Service Supervisor), Anita Lopes (Proline Reservationist), Kelly Zachary (HR/Safety Manager), Carole Kuczynski (Director, Finance & Administration), Tammy Marie Chavers (Executive Assistant)

Legal Counsel

Robert Murphy (Black McCuskey)

Other

Deana Bass (CS Corporate), Karl Lucas (SCATS), Kathy Strong (JR Coleman), John Grossman (E.G. & G., Inc.), David Dougherty (Ward 6 Canton City Council Member), Rich Cosgrove (NEAR), Joseph Concatto (City Of Canton)

Approval/Correction of Minutes (September 26, 2007 Meeting)

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

Citizen Communications

Deana Bass of CS Corporate in Virginia, proposed services that she and her company could offer SARTA as an advocate on Capitol Hill regarding funding and grants. She highlighted that because her company has only 3 clients, this would allow CS Corporate to be more committed to advocating funds for SARTA.

John Grossman of E.G. & G., Inc. is the architect on record for the Mahoning Road Corridor. Mr. Grossman explained that NEAR (North

East Area Renaissance), JR Coleman, SARTA, the City of Canton, and other agencies are all seeking funding for the Mahoning Road Corridor. This project is estimated at \$18,040,860 to complete. Once funding is raised, it will take approximately 3 years to complete.

Kathy Strong of JR Coleman, Rich Cosgrove of NEAR, and David Dougherty, Ward 6 Canton City Council Member all expressed their role in raising funds for the Mahoning Project. Ms. Coleman shared that JR Coleman has already raised \$168,000.

Mr. Concatto explained that through the Mahoning Road Corridor Project the plan is to be the foundation of the neighborhood to enhance homes and businesses. This project would also build a partnership for revitalization through urban projects. There is a new project in place through special improvements and would contract maintenance services for the upkeep after work is complete.

Mr. Bond thanked the city and everyone involved for allowing him on behalf of SARTA to be apart of moving Canton forward.

Board Committee Reports

Finance – William Rudner (Chairperson)

Mr. Odimgbe made note that the budget presented, is what staff is seeking for Board approval. Because 2009 & 2010 are projections, approval from the board will not be sought. The motive is to look ahead and become creative in ways to obtain funding for the future.

Personnel – Phyllis Beyers (Chairperson)

Ms. Beyers stated that the board would receive a form to evaluate Mr. Odimgbe by the end of the week. She also requested that once the form is complete that those forms be mailed back to her.

Public Property/Capital Improvements – Amanda Fletcher (Chairperson)

No reports.

Citizens Advisory Board – Nancy Johnson (Chairperson)

No reports.

Departmental Reports

Transportation – Tom Williams (As submitted)

Maintenance – Mark Finnicum (As submitted)

Finance – Carole Kuczynski (As submitted)

HR & Safety – Kelly Zachary (As submitted)

Ms. Zachary stated that she expects 80% of employees at SARTA will complete the employee survey issued by Synergy. The information acquired from the survey will be shared with the Board when it is available.

Planning & Community Outreach – Teresa Thompson (As submitted)

Ms. Thompson spoke about the proposed changes. The changes will provide shorter travel time between and Alliance and Canton on an everyday basis. Changes will also cut out our ½ hour run on weekends allotting for more service on Sunday. More service on Sunday will make routes more attractive to riders. Once our routes our consistent and more appealing, ridership is expected to increase.

FTA requires SARTA to host 1 public hearing concerning these changes. In addition, SARTA also provides community interaction meetings as an added opportunity to hear from our riders regarding these changes.

Communication from the Executive Director/CEO...

Ridership

It is estimated that we will see a total decline of 5% in ridership in comparison to last year. However our revenue has increased by 30% over the last three years.

Alliance Transit Center Construction

Construction has resumed with the arrival of steel. The new completion date is scheduled for December. Liquidated damages will only be explored if the contractor does not handle progress for this project efficiently.

Trapeze

Five buses and supervisor vehicles are now equipped with Trapeze's "new build." The pace has picked up and we are hopeful that this new build will be acceptable.

Contract Negotiations

The Fact Finder has not yet responded with any information concerning the contract with AFSME. The 2008 budget has some provision based on staff projections for union employee salary adjustments.

Healthier Life Challenge

The Healthier Life Challenge, managed by Jenni Alborn (Proline Reservationist), has been a huge success. 35% of the agency has been participating in a weekly activity to promote the benefits of their health. Cash drawings will conclude this six-week long period.

Resolutions

A Resolution For Free Rides For Veterans Day

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

A Resolution For Application FY 2008 Federal Grants

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

A Resolution For The Elderly & Disabled

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

A Resolution Consenting To The Appointment Of A Trustee And Alternate Trustee To The Board Of Trustees Of The Ohio Transit Risk Pool

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

A Resolution Authorizing The Executive Director To Surplus Obsolete Fixed Assets

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

Adjournment

Mr. Bond moved for the adjournment of the meeting at 7:35PM.