

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 9:15 a.m.  
SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room  
602 Main Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

**BOARD MEMBERS**

PRESENT: Frank Bowen, Suzanne Burke, Jason Dunn, Brennan Grayson, Gregg Hothem, Ken Reed, Gwen Robinson, Karl Schultz, Wael Safi, Brandi Stewart, Lamont Taylor, Brad Thomas

**BOARD MEMBERS**

ABSENT: Todd Cooper

STAFF MEMBERS: Terry Garcia Crews, Donna Adkins, Daron Brown, Bill Desmond, Inez Evans, Shahn Gaitherwright, Paul Grether, Darryl Haley, Antonio (Tony) Lackey, Mary Moning, Sallie Hilvers, Wright Parkes, John Ravasio, Alex Reed, Mike Restle, Frank Spataro, Terri Stevens

OTHERS: Ron Hirth, Council Member, Village of Golf Manor  
Alan Zaffiro, Mayor, Village of Golf Manor  
Wane Creager, Service Director, Village of Golf Manor  
Don Mills, Ohio River Way.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Dunn, Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2014 MINUTES**

Mr. Hothem made a motion that the minutes of the February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed, and Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

Mr. Dunn asked if there were any citizens who would like to address the board. Mr. Ron Hirth, Council Member, Village of Golf Manor; Mayor Alan Zaffiro, Village of Golf Manor; and Mr. Wane Creager, Service Director, Village of Golf Manor, all addressed the board separately, but on the same issue. The Village of Golf Manor has been revitalizing their community and has taken great strides to clean up public property. They are asking the board to remove billboards located on SORTA property in the Village of Golf Manor.

Mr. Dunn thanked them for their time and information.

**PRESENTATION: CEO STAR Award**

Ms. Crews acknowledged bus operator Antonio (Tony) Lackey, a 25-year Metro veteran. On January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014, when road conditions were very icy and hazardous, Mr. Lackey saw an individual fall and then remain on the ground. He parked his bus, helped the individual onto his bus and called for care. Mr. Lackey was presented with the CEO STAR (Service That Attracts Recognition) Award for his exemplary service to Metro and the community.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Planning & Operations**

Mr. Thomas reported on the Planning and Operations Committee meeting held on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and reviewed the following informational items:

Everybody Rides Metro Update  
Cincinnati Streetcar Update  
Annual Loss Data Report

Mr. Dunn asked if there was anything SORTA can do to assist ERM with funding? Ms. Garcia Crews stated that money from bus sales are provided to ERM and the JARC funding may be coming back.

Mr. Hothem asked if anything further has happened regarding the streetcar and funding? Ms. Garcia Crews stated that the Haile Foundation and others are working on funding. SORTA and the City are working on an operating agreement.

**Finance**

Ms. Stewart reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and reviewed the following informational items:

Internal Audit Report on Parts Ordering and Receiving  
Internal Audit Risk Assessment Update  
Internal Audit Summary Update  
Investment of Funds Report  
Administrative Staff Merit Pool

Mr. Bowen would like to see historical information in relation to the merit pool. In addition, Ms. Robinson requested a Personnel Committee Meeting be scheduled to review the merit pool information.

Mr. Restle presented the financial report for December, pointing out that the numbers are not final until the audit is completed, but at this time there is a \$1.9 million surplus. Ms. Garcia Crews congratulated Mr. Haley on generating additional revenue.

Mr. Hothem asked about allocating funds for reserves, and stated that the Finance Committee should determine allocate funds. Mr. Restle was asked to come up with a plan to present to this committee.

**CEO'S REPORT**

Ms. Crews reviewed the CEO Update regarding the Streetcar, Uptown, TVM installation at Government Square (operational by end of March). Enquirer public transportation series started February 2<sup>nd</sup> (also noted that article was published in USA Today), Bus Rapid Transit, Regional Transportation Summit, Leadership Meetings, Cincy Chat, Plan Cincinnati Video, APTA CEO Conference, and Labor Contract ratified (approved by 80% majority).

Mr. Hothem questioned how ridership impacted Metro in January? Ridership in January, 2014, was down 12.5%, but due to extreme cold and weather conditions, Cincinnati Public Schools were closed for 4 days, as well as University of Cincinnati and Xavier were closed for 3 days, which should not affect revenue. Kudos were given to staff for keeping Metro's buses running during these extreme conditions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Reed gave the board an update on legislative issues, as he had been in Washington, DC, the previous week.

The COMTO meeting is to be held on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014; Mr. Taylor stated that 2013 was a pretty good year for COMTO membership.

Mr. Dunn commented that plans are underway to host an HR Workshop/Summit and a Senior Summit in 2014. Meetings with outlining counties educating city/county stakeholders on State of Metro should be rolled out through committees shortly. In addition, Board would like to look at MBE numbers.

Ms. Robison expressed her appreciation to Jason and Terry about open communications.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Stewart made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session as provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(3) for, "Conferences with an attorney...concerning... pending or imminent court action . . . ". Mr. Reed seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved the motion and went into Executive Session at 10:05 a.m.

Ms. Burke made a motion that the Board return to regular session, and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the motion and returned to regular session at 10:30 a.m.

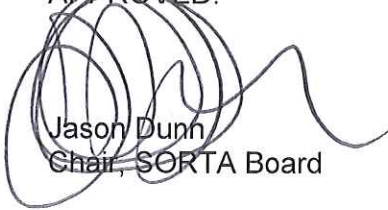
**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 2014, at 9:00 a.m., the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1100, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hothem made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Stewart seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion and the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

APPROVED:



Jason Dunn  
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:



Terry Garcia Crews  
CEO/Secretary-Treasurer