

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 - 9:00 a.m.
SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room
602 Main Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

PRESENT: Todd Cooper, Jason Dunn, Gregg Hothem, Ken Reed, Karl Schultz,
Brandi Stewart, Brad Thomas

BOARD MEMBERS
ABSENT: Frank Bowen, Suzanne Burke, Brennan Grayson, Gwen Robinson, Wael
Safi, Lamont Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS: Terry Garcia Crews, Donna Adkins, Inez Evans, Paul Grether, Jennifer
Haines, Darryl Haley, Mary Moning, Wright Parkes, Mike Restle, John
Ravasio, Frank Spataro, Terri Stevens

OTHERS: Troy Miller, ATU Local 627; Don Mills, Ohio River Way; Nick Sunyak, City
of Cincinnati

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dunn, Board Chair, called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to have the Pledge of Allegiance recited at all Committee and Board meetings, and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the motion.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 18TH, 2014 MINUTES

Mr. Thomas made a motion that the minutes of the February 18, 2014, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed, and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

There were no citizens who addressed the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Operations

Mr. Thomas reported on the Planning and Operations Committee meeting held on March 11, 2014, and then proposed the following resolutions for Board approval:

Proposed Resolution No. 2014-06: Approval of Agreement with Butler County

Mr. Thomas moved for adoption and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. This resolution approves a one (1) year agreement between SORTA and the Butler County Regional Transit Authority (BCRTA) from January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014. It provides continuation of service (but discontinuing Route 23 due to low ridership) and funding to SORTA for said service in the amount of \$500,899.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-06.

Proposed Resolution No. 2014-07: Approval of Agreement with U.S. Bank

Mr. Thomas moved for adoption and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. This resolution approves an initial 6-month term (March 3, 2014, to August 15, 2014) agreement with U.S. Bank and provides funding to SORTA for said service in the amount of \$2,491. The contract allows for two additional one-year term options for the periods of August 15, 2014, through August 15, 2016, with costs negotiated at a later date.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-07.

Proposed Resolution No. 2014-08: Approval of Support for Passage of House Bill 355

Mr. Thomas moved for adoption and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. This resolution is in support of Ohio House Bill 355, which would increase the penalty for assault when the victim is an employee of an Ohio transit system and authorizes Ohio transit systems to post a warning sign indicting that abuse or assault of staff will not be tolerated and might result in a felony conviction.

Discussion ensued with the Board, and Ms. Garcia Crews and Mr. Miller from the ATU spoke about the status, support/anti-support for this bill, as well as the collaborative support/effort between union and management for this bill. It was also noted that other Ohio transit authorities have expressed their support of the bill i.e., Dayton, Cleveland, Columbus, etc. Ms. Miller stated that the only opposition was from the Prosecutors Association, as they did not want a special law for a special group of people.

By roll call vote, the Board did not approve Resolution No. 2014-08.

Proposed Motion: Dinsmore and Shohl Legal Services

Mr. Thomas moved for adoption and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. This motion approves the engagement letter with Dinsmore & Shohl at a blended hourly rate of \$290 per hour (a 5.5% increase from previous year) retroactive to January 1, 2014.

Ms. Stewart stated that she would like to assure that women and minorities from the firm are working on SORTA/Metro matters. Mr. Reed asked staff to ensue this and to track the participation. Discussion ensued with the Board about this matter and the hourly rate that the firm is charging. Mr. Thomas withdrew his motion and Mr. Schultz withdrew his second.

Mr. Hothem asked to table the motion until Mr. Desmond was present, and Ms. Stewart seconded the motion. By voice vote the Board agreed to table the motion.

Finance

Ms. Stewart reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on March 13, 2014. Ms. Stewart and Mr. Hothem spoke about the Risk Assessment update that was given at this meeting by Clark Schaefer. Ms. Stewart reviewed the top ten risks that had been identified. Mr. Hothem pointed out that some of these risks are things out of SORTA's control, but the Board needs to be aware of these and to consider them when making decisions. Mr. Dunn recommended that management start succession planning for personnel and, in addition, asked management to have a menu prepared of various scenarios in the event of a loss of funding.

Ms. Stewart updated the Board on the FTA Financial Management Oversight Review, which has been completed with only minor issues reported.

Ms. Stewart then proposed the following for Board approval:

Proposed Resolution No. 2014-09: Approval of Designation of SORTA Depositories, Accounts and Check Signers

Ms. Stewart moved for adoption and Mr. Hothem seconded the motion. This resolution approves the list of accounts and authorized signers on those accounts. It also approves the opening of a STAR Plus account at STAR Ohio.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-09.

FINANCIAL AND RIDERSHIP REPORT (FEBRUARY)

Written reports were provided in the board books; a verbal report will take place at the April meeting.

CEO'S REPORT

Ms. Garcia Crews presented the CEO Update. Items included Streetcar; ODOT funding for Buses (for which we received \$2 million from ODOT for 5 new buses); Ticket Vending Machine update; Transit Workshop for Human Resources Directors (April 9th); Enquirer Public Transportation Series; Safety, Media, and Union Contract Training; Leadership Meetings; APTA Legislative Conference.

Mr. Reed, who attended the APTA Legislative Conference, gave the Board an update. While in Washington, DC, they met with legislative staff members to relay Metro's primary message, of a need for a long term bill to provide funding to replace old buses and facilities infrastructure. He also briefly discussed the Regional Infrastructure Improvement bill that SORTA may want to address at a later date.

Ms. Crews showed the Board the March edition of Mass Transit Magazine and gave kudos to Jill Dunne and the Marketing/Communications team who worked hard to highlight Cincinnati. Ms. Evans presented the Performance Indicators update. On-time performance's down turn is due mainly to streetcar and construction. Metro staff is asking the City for a transit only lane on Walnut Street as 75% of all routes utilize this. This is also causing increased customer complaints. Staff will continue to address these issues and attempt to provide a solution.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dunn stated that during the week of July 21-27, 2014, the Urban League (6,000+ people), Reds Series, and Macy's Music Festival will all be held downtown. He asked staff to contact the promoters in an attempt to provide information to the attendees of these events about Metro service and to encourage people to use Metro, perhaps including schedules and promotional items in their informational packets.

Mr. Dunn also stated that he would like management to host a Vendor Fair prior to year end, similar to the one held in 2012.

NEXT MEETING

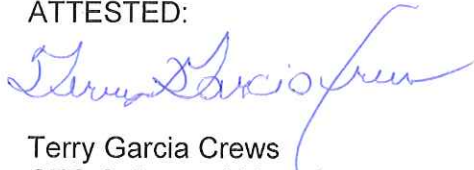
The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio

Mr. Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

APPROVED:


Jason Dunn
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:


Terry Garcia Crews
CEO & General Manager