

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 - 9:00 a.m.  
SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room  
602 Main Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

**BOARD MEMBERS**

PRESENT: Frank Bowen, Todd Cooper, Jason Dunn, Brennan Grayson, Gregg Hothem, Ken Reed, Gwen Robinson, Wael Safi, Karl Schultz, Brad Thomas

**BOARD MEMBERS**

ABSENT: Brandi Stewart, Suzanne Burke, Lamont Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS: Terry Garcia Crews, Donna Adkins, Bill Desmond, Inez Evans, Paul Grether, Darryl Haley, Kim Lahman, Mary Moning, Sallie Hilvers, Wright Parkes, John Ravasio, Alex Reed, Mike Restle, Jennifer Haines, Shawn Donaghy, Bryant Curry

OTHERS: Troy Miller, ATU Local 627; Inga McGlothlin, ATU Local 627

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PRESENTATION: CEO STAR AWARD**

Ms. Crews acknowledged Mr. Bryant Curry for his quick actions in escorting passengers off a Route 75X coach on February 28, 2014. The coach caught fire on eastbound I-275 and thanks to Mr. Curry's efforts, all passengers were unharmed. Mr. Curry was presented with the CEO STAR Award, and the Board congratulated and thanked him.

**APPROVAL OF March 18, 2014, MINUTES**

Ms. Robinson made a motion that the minutes of the Tuesday, March 18, 2014, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed, and Mr. Bowen seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

Mr. Miller, from ATU Local 627, asked the Board to approve the proposed resolution encouraging the legislature to pass House Bill 355.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Community and Government Relations**

Mr. Bowen reported on the Community and Government Relations meeting held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, which included updates on advertising, social media and the community engagement plan for 2014. Mr. Dunn provided additional detail on the HR Workshop, which was well attended and received, and commended staff for their efforts.

**Planning & Operations**

Mr. Thomas reported on the Planning and Operations Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, and he then proposed the following for board approval:

**Proposed Motion: Dinsmore & Shohl Legal Services**

Mr. Thomas moved for adoption and Mr. Reed 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.

By voice vote, the Board approved this Motion

**Proposed Resolution No. 2014-08: Supporting the Passage of House Bill 355**

Mr. Thomas moved for adoption and Mr. Reed 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 indicating that abuse or assault of staff will not be tolerated and might result in a felony conviction.

By voice vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-08

Ms. Robinson suggested that we have a member of the Board testify to show our support of the bill. Mr. Reed volunteered to represent SORTA, if needed. The other Ohio transit systems have been represented by their CEO's.

**Proposed Resolution No. 2014-10: Approval of Agreement with Miami Jacobs Career College for Funding Route 68**

Mr. Thomas moved for adoption and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. This resolution approves a one (1) year agreement with Miami Jacobs Career College for funding of Route 68 to begin June 2, 2014. Miami Jacobs is paying 100 percent (100%) of the

cost of the service in the amount of \$59,422 for the first year. Funding for two (2) additional, one (1) year terms for 2015 and 2016, will be negotiated at a later date.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-10.

### **FINANCIAL AND RIDERSHIP REPORTS (MARCH)**

Mr. Restle presented SORTA's financial report for the month ending March 31, 2014, indicating year-to-date we are \$208,000.00 favorable to budget, mostly due to an additional \$280,000.00 received from Warren County.

Mr. Haley presented the Ridership Report. Metro\*Plus service is providing 1,500 rides per day, which was not projected to happen until 2016. He also pointed out that Cincinnati State ridership is down, primarily due to enrollment being down 10%.

Ms. Lahman provided an update on ridership development. The Board had a lengthy discussion making suggestions to staff regarding potential marketing opportunities. The Board thanked Ms. Lahman for her efforts.

### **CEO'S REPORT**

Ms. Garcia-Crews gave updates on: Major Projects, Community Engagement, Organizational Advancement and CEO Leadership Engagement Activities.

Paul Grether gave update on the Streetcar project and pointed out that the written report is for the prior month. Construction is running ahead of schedule, and it is anticipated that the start-up date of September, 2016, is still accurate, partially due to the utility work, however, this will be reevaluated at the end of 2014. Staff has begun working on streetcar educational materials and promotions.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Reed made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session as provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) for, "...to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee . . .". Mr. Hothem seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved the motion and went into Executive Session at 10:15 a.m.

It was properly moved and seconded that the Board return to regular session. By voice vote, the Board approved the motion and returned to regular session at 10:50 a.m.

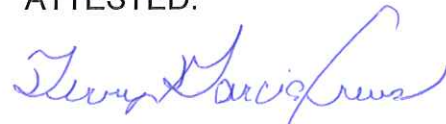
The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

APPROVED:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long vertical stroke on the right side.

Jason Dunn  
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Garcia Crews' in a cursive style.

Terry Garcia Crews  
CEO & General Manager