

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 9:20 a.m.
SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room
602 Main Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

BOARD MEMBERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT: Suzanne Burke, Wael Safi, Gwen Robinson, Lamont Taylor,

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

OTHERS: Troy Miller, ATU Local 627; Troy Hoskins, ATU Local 627; Reco Owens, ATU Local 67; James Brown; ATU Local 627; Dave Jones, ATU Local 627; Keith Law, ATU Local 627; Chris Leeka, ATU Local 627; Inga McGlothlin, ATU Local 627; Nick Vehr, Vehr Communications, Collin Groth, Strive Network; Chris Eilerman, City of Cincinnati; John Deatrck, City of Cincinnati; Chris Moran, League of Women Voters; Joe Curry, Everybody Rides Metro; Paul De Marco, Believe in Cincinnati; Rick Greiwe, Greiwe Development; Eric Avner, Haile Foundation; Rick Kimbler, NorthPointe Group Real Estate Development; Cathy Crain, Cincinnati State; Daniel Hauber, Transportation Resource Associates; Peter Bruno, Transportation Resource Associates; Kenneth Korach; Transportation Resource Associates; Rebecca Wetzler, Transportation Resource Associates; Nick Sunyak, City of Cincinnati; Don Mills, Ohio River Way.

CALL TO ORDER

Karl Schultz, Board Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

Mr. Schultz held a moment of silence for Mr. William Mallory Sr., who passed away on December 10, 2013.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19TH, 2013 MINUTES

Mr. Reed made a motion that the minutes of the November 19th, 2013, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Schultz asked if there were any citizens present who would like to address the board. Mr. Hoskins and Mr. Miller from ATU Local #627 introduced the ATU Local #627 Board Members: James Brown, Dave Jones, Keith Law, Chris Leeka, Inga McGlothlin, and Reco Owens.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Planning & Operations**

Mr. Reed reported on the Planning and Operations Committee meeting held on December 10, 2013. Mr. Reed then presented the following:

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-40: Approval of Clermont County Service Agreement

Mr. Reed moved for adoption and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. This resolution approves a one-year agreement (2014) with Clermont County to operate bus service for Routes 28, 29X and 82X into Clermont County.

By roll call vote, the Board approved Resolution No. 2013-40.

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-41: Approval of Agreement with Warren County

Mr. Reed moved for adoption and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. This resolution approves a two-year agreement (2013-2014) with Warren County to operate bus service for Routes 71X and 71 into Warren County. Mr. Reed stated that this contract is similar to the Clermont County Agreement.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2013-41.

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-42: Approval of Kings Island Park and Ride Lease

Mr. Reed moved for adoption and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. This resolution approves a one-year agreement (2014) with Kings Island for park and ride spaces at a cost not to exceed \$35,100, and includes money for maintenance expenses not to exceed \$25,000, for a total annual maximum cost of \$60,100, with no increase in cost from previous years.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2013-42.

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-43: Approval of Fields Ertel Park and Ride Agreement

Mr. Reed moved for adoption and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. This resolution approves a new agreement with Meijer for a park and ride for 75 spaces at no cost and up to a maximum of \$10,000 per calendar year for contracted repairs. This replaces the

park & ride previously located within the right of way at Fields Ertel and I-71, which has been demolished.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2013-43.

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-44: Approval of Contract with Duke Energy Retail Sales

Mr. Reed moved for adoption and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. This resolution approves a 12-month extension to the contract with Duke, and offers SORTA a reduced rate at an estimated savings of approximately \$99,625.00 for period year. Total cost of the one-year contract is not to exceed \$1,200,000.00

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2013-44.

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-45: Approval of Fleet Gasoline/Diesel Contract

Mr. Reed moved for adoption and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. This resolution approves a five year contract with Superfleet/ Marathon to purchase gasoline/diesel fuel at a cost not to exceed \$654,101.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2013-45.

Proposed Resolution No. 2013-46: Approval of Government Square Cleaning

Mr. Reed moved for adoption and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. This resolution approves a one year renewal contract with Downtown Cincinnati, Inc., for Government Square Cleaning at a cost not to exceed \$135,158.64.

By roll call vote, the Board approved Resolution No. 2013-46.

Proposed Motion: Appointment to OKI Board

Mr. Reed moved for adoption and Mr. Hothem seconded the motion. This proposed motion approves that Ms. Garcia Crews be appointed as SORTA's representative to the OKI Board of Trustees and Mr. Mischler as the alternate.

By roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved the proposed motion.

Labor

Mr. Schultz reported that the Labor Committee met this morning in executive session.

FINANCIAL AND RIDERSHIP REPORTS (NOVEMBER)

Written reports were provided in the board books; a verbal update will be provided in January, 2014.

CEO'S REPORT

Ms. Crews provided the board update. Fare deal Smart cards start January 1st – market is educated. State of Metro meeting in November was a great success. Metro hosted a National Transit Institute Procurement seminar, which was very beneficial and successful. This seminar educated national attendees, as well as Metro staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Crews advised the Board that there have been several late-breaking developments regarding the streetcar project. Ms. Crews reported that she has been approached by Mr. Eric Avner of the Haile Foundation and others who are interested in forming a private/public partnership or similar group that would try to keep the streetcar project moving forward by providing some financial assurances for operating costs. They propose to gather the necessary financial support from local business, civic and charitable groups to underwrite a portion of the streetcar operating costs, with SORTA as the operator. Ms. Crews has also had discussions with the Federal Transit Administration about the potential impact to SORTA and the region if the streetcar project is canceled. Ms. Crews emphasized that she is not advocating for or against the streetcar project, but wants to insure the Board is fully advised regarding the situation given the FTA's December 19 deadline.

Mr. Schultz made a motion that this matter be immediately referred to a committee of the whole for further consideration, with Mr. Thomas to serve as committee chair. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the motion.

A meeting of the committee of the whole was then convened. Mr. Thomas asked Mr. Grether to provide the committee with more details regarding the Haile Foundation's proposal and the basic concepts behind it.

Mr. Grether stated that streetcar supporters are proposing role reversals between the City and SORTA whereby the City would relinquish ownership of the streetcar to SORTA. SORTA would then operate the streetcar and work with businesses and philanthropic foundations within the next 6-12 months to get dedicated funds for operational costs.

Operating costs are estimated at \$3.8 million per year. Each streetcar operation in the United States is unique and funded differently. There are different viable scenarios, which could cover the operating costs, but could also be increased or decreased depending on different issues.

Mr. Eric Avner of Haile Foundation was introduced. Mr. Avner stated that the Haile Foundation wants to partner with Metro to change the regional transportation in this area and is willing to commit \$1 million in funding to support the streetcar project.

Mr. Paul DeMarco, Attorney from the We Believe in Cincinnati Citizens Group, which is an advocate for the Cincinnati streetcar and comprised of residents living along the

streetcar route, stated they want to support the streetcar project and will work to look for ways to fund operations.

In addition to Mr. Avner and Mr. DeMarco, the committee heard from Mr. Rick Griewe of Griewe Properties and Ms. Kathy Crain of Cincinnati State in support of the streetcar project.

The Committee thanked the community leaders for coming forward and was pleased that they are so interested in the future of transportation in the region. The Committee then continued to discuss the potential effects on the local region if the streetcar project is stopped and federal funds must be returned to FTA, and SORTA's responsibility to provide public transportation in the region. There was concern expressed about funding the streetcar operations on a long term basis beginning in 2016.

At the conclusion of the committee's discussion, the Committee directed Mr. Thomas to present the proposed motion to the Board.

Mr. Thomas then presented the following motion to the Board:

Proposed Motion: Cincinnati Streetcar

Mr. Thomas moved for adoption and Ms. Stewart seconded the motion. Mr. Thomas stated that the long term funding issues will have to be addressed during the upcoming year. This motion will be presented to Cincinnati City Council in hopes of continuing the construction and ownership being transferred to SORTA upon completion.

By roll call vote, the Board approved the motion.

NEXT MEETING

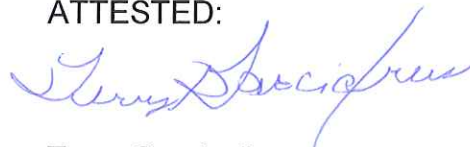
The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2013, 9:00 a.m., the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio

Mr. Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

APPROVED:


Suzanne Burke
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:


Terry Garcia Crews
CEO & General Manager