

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 9:00 a.m.
SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room
602 Main Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Jason Dunn, Frank Bowen, Brendon Cull, Brennan Grayson, Gregg Hothem, Kreg Keesee, Ron Mosby, Jack Painter, Ken Reed, Gwen Robinson, Karl Schultz, Daniel St. Charles, Brad Thomas

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT:

STAFF MEMBERS: Dwight Ferrell, Donna Adkins, Matt Conover, Kenneth Foxx, Butch Gaut, Paul Grether, Jennifer Haines, Darryl Haley, Tim Harrington, Sallie Hilvers, Arnold Isham, Orlando King, Mary Moning, Kris Neiheisel, Wright Parkes, Mike Restle, Carlos Rowland, Frank Spataro, Mike Weil

OTHERS: Nick Sunyak, City of Cincinnati; Troy Miller, ATU Local 627; Lieutenant Bret Isaac, Cincinnati Police Department; Jason Williams, Cincinnati Enquirer

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Mr. Ferrell notified the Board that for the second year in a row, Metro was awarded the top honor among mid-size transit systems for security excellence from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). Metro received the GOLD Award for Security during the APTA Bus & Paratransit Conference in Fort Worth, TX on May 3. The success of Metro's partnership with local and national law enforcement and the use of national resources and tools to enhance its security programs, along with the involvement of employees and customers in the "eyes and ears" of public transportation threat prevention program were all considered during the award selection process. A video highlighting Metro's Safety accomplishments was presented the Board.

Mr. Ferrell also wanted to introduce Metro's Employees of the Year: Kenneth Foxx, Orlando King, and Kris Neiheisel. The fourth employee of the year, Dawit Yemaneab was unable to attend. Mr. Ferrell noted that in order to be considered for Operator of the Year the criteria is: No negative customer service reports, discipline, preventable accidents, at least 86.5% or better on-time performance, and 2% or less absenteeism. In order to be considered for Maintenance Employee of the Year the criteria is: no preventable accidents, disciplinary actions, uniform violations, no more than 8 excused or three unexcused absences, must have worked 90% of regularly scheduled work days during the year. All were thanked and congratulated by the Board.

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Miller gave brief update on his recent visit and meeting with state representatives to discuss state funding for transit systems.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 21, 2015 REGULAR MINUTES

Mr. Schultz made a motion that the minutes of the April 21, 2015 regular meeting be approved as previously mailed, and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Planning and Operations Committee**

Mr. Thomas reported on the Planning and Operations Committee meeting held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, and proposed the following motions for the Board for approval:

Proposed Motion: Appointment as Directors of Everybody Rides Metro

Mr. Thomas moved for adoption and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. The Operating Agreement between SORTA and Everybody Rides Metro Foundation (ERM) states that as seats become available on the ERM Board, the ERM Board will recommend individuals to the SORTA Board for consideration. All Directors are appointed by the SORTA Board. Mr. Sittenfeld's term expires June 30, 2015 and he is not standing for re-election as a Director on the ERM Board. Mr. Mann resigned prior to his term ending in 2016. Ms. Moore is willing to accept the seat of Mr. Mann with an expiration date of June 30, 2016. Mr. Bowen is willing to accept the vacant seat of a SORTA Board member to the ERM Board with an expiration date of June 30, 2018. Mr. Dunn and Mr. Gibbs have agreed to accept reappointment for another term of three years to expire June 30, 2018. It is recommended that the SORTA Board appoint Ms. Moore and Mr. Bowen and to reappoint Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Dunn as Directors of Everybody Rides Metro with new terms.

By voice vote, the Board approved the motion.

Proposed Motion: Adoption of Sustainability Policy

Mr. Thomas moved for adoption and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. SORTA has taken many steps to be an environmentally responsible organization, including serving as a national leader in biodiesel testing, incorporating hybrid and "mini-hybrid" buses into the fleet, recycling waste oil and other materials, and washing buses with reclaimed rain water. The next step is to formalize SORTA's sustainability efforts and measure progress against established goals. On Earth Day, April 22, 2015, SORTA signed the American Public Transportation Association's Sustainability Commitment to initiate a sustainability program and leverage national expertise concerning best industry practices. Staff has drafted a sustainability policy and recommends it for adoption by the Board.

By voice vote, the Board approved the motion.

Mr. Painter made a motion that a subcommittee be formed to help get a better understanding of APTA and their sustainability policies and Mr. St. Charles seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board denied the motion.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. St. Charles reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on Thursday, May 14, 2015 and proposed the following motions to the Board for approval:

Proposed Motion: Letter of Support for Butler County Regional Transit Authority's Federal TIGER Grant Application

Mr. St. Charles moved for adoption and Mr. Keesee seconded the motion. SORTA has received a request from the Butler County Regional Transit Authority (BCRTA) to provide a letter of support for its grant application for federal TIGER funds. BCRTA's grant application is for \$20 million in federal funds to support the construction of a Transit Center and a bus storage/maintenance/fuel facility on the campus of Miami University.

By voice vote, the Board approved the motion.

Proposed Motion: Letter of Support for City of Cincinnati Federal TIGER 7 Grant Application for the Wasson Way Project

Mr. St. Charles moved for adoption and Mr. Reed seconded the motion. The City of Cincinnati is applying for TIGER 7 grant funding to purchase the former Norfolk and Western Railroad line (now Norfolk Southern) on the east side of Cincinnati and has asked SORTA provide a letter of support for the project.

By voice vote, the Board approved the motion.

RIDERSHIP REPORTS FOR MARCH 2015

Mr. Conover presented the March ridership report. Graphs were presented comparing actual ridership by month to budget and prior year for fixed route, Cincinnati Public Schools student ridership, paratransit, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati State, and Fare Deal. Mr. Conover stated that regular service for the month was under budget by 7.2%, student service was under budget by 6.7%, and total fixed route was under budget by 7.1%. Paratransit ridership was under budget by 3.4%. Year to date, total ridership was under budget by 7.1%.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MARCH 2015

Mr. Restle presented the March financial report. Total revenues were \$7.7 million, which is unfavorable to budget by \$136,000, or 1.7%. Total expenses were \$7.6 million, which is favorable to budget by \$200,000, or 2.6%. The end result is a net favorable variance for the month of \$65,000 and \$299,000 favorable year to date. Mr. Restle then reviewed with the committee the significant contributing factors to these variances.

BOARD UPDATE

Mr. Ferrell presented the Board Update highlighting that Matt Conover is a graduate of the APTA Early Career Program. Mr. Ferrell gave an additional update on his first 100 days at the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber breakfast reception.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. St. Charles advised that the IT Subcommittee is currently looking for additional members. Mr. Thomas and Mr. St. Charles are the only current members.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Reed made a motion that the board go into Executive Session as provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3) "concerning disputes...that are the subject of pending or imminent court action" and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion.

By roll call vote, the Board approved the motion and went into Executive Session at 9:57 a.m.

It was properly moved and seconded that the Board return to regular session. The Board approved the motion and returned to regular session at 11:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

It was properly moved and seconded that the Board meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

APPROVED:



Jason Dunn
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:



Dwight Ferrell
CEO & General Manager