

**KALAMAZOO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes of October 22, 2007**

Members Present: Chairperson Carol Fricke, Vice Chair Donna Treloar, Garrylee McCormick, Michael Gregor, and Andy Havice

Members Absent: Reuben Richardson, Elizabeth Forest (Unexcused)

City Commission Liaison: Bobby Hopewell, Vice Mayor (Absent)

Technical Support Members Present: William Schomisch, Transportation Director

City Administration Member Present: Beth A. Sowles, Administrative Office Specialist
Tom Skrobola, Finance Director

Guests: Richard Atwell, KCTA Chair, Paul Ecklund, Jack Mekemson, Linda Teeter, Diane Kempen, Terry Kuseske, Greg Rosine, and Char Sumney, KCTA
Cedric Ricks, *Kalamazoo Gazette* Reporter
Lilly Wolfe, Care-A-Van User
Ron Smeltzer
Larry Gordon and Manuel Pratt, Metro Transit Drivers

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Fricke called the regular meeting of the Transit Authority Board of Directors to order at 5:40 pm.

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Fricke requested a motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Reuben Richardson.

Mr. Gregor made a motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Richardson and was supported by Mr. McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Board members introduced themselves to the guests in attendance.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

ISSUES/ITEMS FOR CITY MANAGER/CITY COMMISSION

Revised November 6th Ballot Language

Mr. Schomisch noted that following the TAB approving the ballot language a memo was sent to the City Commission for their approval also on the ballot language. However, when this language was sent to the City Commission, a change had been made to the language so that the City Commission adopted slightly different language than the TAB had. Mr. Schomisch stated that this error had been rectified and the City Commission adopted the revised language with no questions. The ballot question has to be identical to the previous language that was presented to the voters. The information was given to the County Clerk so that ballots could be printed.

ACTION ITEMS

Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2007

Mr. Gregor noted on page 3 of the minutes the word "said" had been left out of paragraph #6. Mr. Gregor also noted that the motion for the adjournment of the meeting was incorrect.

Ms. Treloar made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2007, as corrected, and was supported by Mr. Havice. Motion carried unanimously.

Income and Expense Statement – September 2007

Mr. Schomisch presented the September Income and Expense Report. Highlighted was the fact that operating expenses had increased \$75,000 from the previous year. This increase has been attributed to the price of diesel fuel. Revenues also increased over last year due to advertising revenues.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the September 2007 Income and Expense Statement and was supported by Ms. Treloar. Motion carried unanimously.

Change in Meeting Date and Time

A recommendation has been made to move the Transit Authority Board meetings back to the 4th Friday of each month at 8:15 am, and meet in the Metro Transit Conference Room.

Mr. Havice made a motion to change the date and time of the Transit Authority Board meetings to the 4th Friday at 8:15 am in the Metro Transit Conference Room and was supported by Mr. McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

Due to the holidays in November and December, those meeting times have been scheduled for Friday, November 16, 2007, at 8:15 am, and Friday, December 21, 2007 at 8:15 am.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

FTA Final Audit Report Regarding Employee Drug and Alcohol Testing Program

Mr. Schomisch stated that the FTA conducted a random audit of Metro Transit's employee drug and alcohol testing program. On September 25th, Metro Transit received a final notification that Metro Transit and Pride Care are both in full compliance of the requirements.

Mr. McCormick inquired about the statement of "open findings". Mr. Schomisch explained that it means being in full compliance.

APTA Annual Conference – October 6-11, 2007

Mr. Schomisch noted that APTA has embarked on a new mission entitled "Vision 2050" for the country. A report will be issued resulting in a new vision for all public transit nation-wide.

November 6 Millage Campaign Update

Friends of Transit have been attending neighborhood meetings providing information regarding the upcoming millage vote in November.

Chair Fricke stated everyone has been hard at work disseminating information. A View Point article has been written and will appear in the *Kalamazoo Gazette*. Chair Fricke also announced that any letters to the Editor are due Friday, October 26th to the *Kalamazoo Gazette*. Volunteers are needed for an event at Bronson Park and also to hand out flyers to the people who use Metro Transit. Flyers are available to be passed around.

Care-A-Van Update

Mr. Schomisch stated that the City Commission asked the City Manager for an internal investigation on whether a breach of contract was in effect with Pride Care for the provision of Care-A-Van service. The City Manager requested that Metro Transit prepare and mail to all Care-A-Van riders an updated Customer Satisfaction Survey. Metro Transit conducted a previous survey in October 2005 after taking over the service. The survey was again sent to 1,600 riders and had a 17% return rate. The final report has not been completed. The City Manager will be making a report to the City Commission.

Federal/State Funding Update

Mr. Schomisch stated that further cuts are expected in the Comprehensive Transportation Fund (CTF). He further stated that: A) the Legislature cannot decide how to cut the budget; and 2) inaction may result in another government shutdown. There has been no talk about changing the operating assistance program.

Oakland Route Issues

In September the Route #4 – Oakland bus was restructured. The residents living in Oakwood who are traveling to Crossroads no longer have a direct connection. Mr. Schomisch stated that this issue would be given to the Route Committee to see if adjustments to service can be made.

Ms. Treloar asked how much longer it now takes for someone to get to Crossroads. Mr. Schomisch stated that a round trip takes approximately 1.5 hours.

Portage Trolley Service Proposal

Metro Transit has been contacted by the City of Portage stating that they are interested in developing a trolley service for the holidays in Portage. Metro Transit staff has contacted Harbor Transit to determine if a second trolley would be available for this service. A proposal was made to the City of Portage.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Gregor asked about the transit system safety audit. Mr. Schomisch stated that the report came in after the Board packet had been mailed and he was still reviewing the report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ron Smeltzer of Galesburg: Stated he was a Care-A-Van driver. He does not understand that when Pride Care had the contract previously, the County decided not to let them bid or run the service. States he is happy that safety and drug testing is being caught up. Also stated that as a person who has been with Pride Care, he went 1.5 years without drug testing or the right drug testing and was the only person who was randomly drug tested. It's nice trying to fix problems now, but it is too little too late. Pride Care had a chance 15 years ago and they blew it. Another millage is nice, but if any money goes to Care-A-Van it isn't worth it. People are still waiting on the delivery of the new Care-A-Van vehicles. It is hard to get them fixed when the on-site manager and the mechanic are driving the buses. Pride Care has a paramedic running the service. His wife is supposed to be second in command and she's located on Portage Road. There is supposed to be someone onsite at all times to answer questions. Feels that riders are like family.

Mr. Richard Atwell, KCTA Chair: I want to thank the Transit Authority Board on behalf of the KCTA members for changing the meeting time and date for the last several months. KCTA members learned how the TAB deals with day-to-day operations. The provided reports have helped a great deal.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business presented before the Transit Authority Board of Directors at their formal meeting dated Monday, October 22, 2007, Chairperson Fricke adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:08.

*Mr. McCormick made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was supported by Mr. Gregor.
Motion carried unanimously.*

Beth A. Sowles, Recording Secretary

Date: October 22, 2007