

**KALAMAZOO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes of September 23, 2011**

Members Present:	Chair Carol Fricke, Andy Havice, Garrylee McCormick, Joseph Szuszwalak and Jason Meddaugh
Members Absent:	Reuben Richardson (excused)
City Commission Liaison:	Robert Cinabro (absent)
Technical Support Members Present:	William J. Schomisch, Executive Director
City Administration Member Present:	Beth Sowles, Administrative Office Specialist
Others Present:	Michele McGowan, Disability Network Dale Hein, KCTA

Chair Fricke called the regular meeting of the Transit Authority Board of Directors to order at 8:16 am.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. Chair Fricke announced that Mr. Reuben Richardson will be resigning his position from the TAB. Mr. Richardson will be sending an official written resignation.

INTRODUCTIONS

Transit Authority Board introduced themselves to the people in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

ISSUES/ITEMS FOR CITY MANAGER/CITY COMMISSION

None

ACTION ITEMS

Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2011

It was noted that the minutes stated that Mr. Meddaugh was both absent and in attendance at the previous TAB meeting. Mr. Meddaugh was, in fact, absent from the meeting. Minutes accepted as amended.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the minutes from July 22, 2011, as amended, and was supported by Mr. Szuszwalak. Motion carried unanimously.

Income and Expense Statement – July and August

Mr. Schomisch presented the August Income and Expense Statement. Mr. Szuszwalak asked whether the advertising campaign was continuing. Mr. Schomisch stated that the campaign ended in August.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the July and August Income and Expense Statements, and was supported by Mr. Havice. Motion carried unanimously.

Ridership Report – July and August

Mr. Schomisch presented the August ridership report. Mr. Schomisch noted that the Portage routes are not doing well and that without the Portage routes; ridership would have increased 8%.

Mr. Havice made a motion to approve the July and August Ridership Reports, and was supported by Mr. Szuszwalak. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Federal/State Funding Update

Mr. Schomisch stated that the House and Senate have passed a 6 month extension for the Appropriations bill. The House budget bill, which has not been approved yet, is a 38% cut in funding for 2012. A bill introduced on the Senate side would fund for two years on a higher level, but would involve taking money from the General Fund into the Highway Trust Fund.

Diesel Fuel Update

Mr. Schomisch stated that diesel fuel is overall at \$3.12

ATU Collective Bargaining Agreement

A new 3-year agreement with ATU has been signed. The City had four (4) contracts being negotiated and all four (4) were signed within one weekend. All contracts needed to be ratified and signed before the new law was signed regarding the new public employee health payment. ATU employees will receive a signing bonus in exchange for not receiving raises.

Holly Jolly Trolley

Mr. Schomisch has talked to the director of Harbor Transit and they are not in a position to lease a trolley to Metro Transit this year. This information has been shared with DKI. They are looking into alternatives and there may be a trolley, but it will not be operated by Metro Transit.

Chair Fricke asked about the trolley run by CATA. It's the Entertainment Express and has various stops in order to get people safely back and forth.

Mr. Schomisch stated that Metro Transit got "dinged" in the Triennial Review for running the trolley on Sundays because it is a day that service is not provided.

Mr. Hein asked if cost estimates had been done on running a trolley year around. Mr. Schomisch stated that the cost would be approximately \$300,000 a year to run.

Mr. McCormick asked what "dinged" meant. Mr. Schomisch explained that it was a finding against Metro Transit as a failing of operating.

Mr. Havice asked if the TAB could have voted to run the trolley on Sunday. Mr. Schomisch stated that it would be changing Metro Transit's regular service. Mr. Schomisch stated that perhaps it could have been done as it would have changed the parameters of running service on Sunday.

Washington Square / Evergreen North Service

Mr. Schomisch stated that he had met with Washington Square and Evergreen North residents. The new service will provide those complexes with front door service during mid-day times. The Washington Square service also had to work with MRC due to where they are now located. Evergreen North has a block long or more walk down to Mall Drive where the bus normally goes.

Another issue came up with Westland Meadows on the West Michigan route. Those residents are not happy. Metro Transit is currently working with their manager and putting in a pad to help with their residents. Grand Rapids has an actual policy of NOT going into complexes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Grant Money Loss Potential

PA 54 that requires when a labor contract for public employees expires; employers cannot go back and pay retro pay. A problem is that 13(c) agreement that provides for funding. Federal funds cannot be used to harm public employees in any way.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Meddaugh stated that he saw on Twitter that Depot Concessions at KTC is closing. Mr. Schomisch stated that they are unable to pay the rent. An agreement was reached previously to try to assist them, and now they are not able to continue to pay. Mr. Meddaugh also asked for an update on the GPS on Talking Bus announcements. Mr. Schomisch stated that a contract was awarded to Avail. They will be "packaging" the entire program. Mr. Meddaugh asked about accessible bus schedules. Mr. Schomisch stated Metro Transit has run into vacant positions in the Department that cannot be filled. The City is holding those positions for people who may be laid off and can move into those positions. Mr. Schomisch stated that in the Triennial Review write up and noted that a shortage of staff was noted in the report.

Chair Fricke asked Mr. Hein about enhancements to the website from KATS and asked whether the Dispatch “turn sheets” could be used.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hein stated that KCTA is working on Lifeline Grant to help with recession related needs. The basic need is transportation. KCTA is working with Michigan Works and YOU to submit a grant to provide vouchers in rural area of county for people who need transportation for job-related activities and do not have a fixed-route available.

The search for an Executive Director for KCTA deadline is January 1st. KCTA will be moving into Metro Transit’s office within the next few weeks.

Creation of the second PA 196 Board is starting up. Within the next month or so, and hopefully by the end of the year, the second board will be appointed to that Board.

Mr. Schomisch stated the intent of KCTA is to have the assets of the System turned over to the KCTA. However, things need to be done to ensure the City is made whole before that can be done. Also, the intent is if second board is appointed, the TAB will no longer exist.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business presented before the Transit Authority Board of Directors at their meeting dated Friday, September 23, 2011, Chair Fricke adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Beth A. Sowles, Recording Secretary

Date: September 23, 2011