
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: September 28, 2022, 6:30-9:00pm

Members: Eric Mahler (Chair), Mike Allemang (Treasurer), Jesse Miller (Secretary), Simi Barr, Rich Chang, Kathleen Mozak, Susan Pollay, Kyra Sims

Staff: Matt Carpenter, Dina Reed, Forest Yang, Gretchen Johnson, Deborah Holt

Location: Ann Arbor District Library

Chair Eric Mahler called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm

Agenda Item

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Approve Agenda

Mr. Chang move to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Miller.

All in favor of the accepted agenda:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (attending virtually)

Mr. Simi Barr: Yes

Mr. Rich Chang: Yes

Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes

Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes

Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes

Chairman Eric Mahler: Yes

The vote passed unanimously.

Ms. Pollay arrived at 6:34 pm

1.2 Public Comment

Robert Pawlowski expressed his support for electric buses as other organizations such as SMART and DDOT have begun to change out their bus fleet to electric. He is encouraged by these changes and hopes TheRide will look into making them as well.

1.3 General Announcements

1.3.1 Welcome New Board Member Simi Barr

Mr. Mahler and the rest of the Board welcomed new Board member Simi Barr. Mr. Barr comes from the Office of Sustainability with the City of Ann Arbor.

1.4 Board Officer Elections

Mr. Mahler opened the floor for the nomination for Board Chair for the 2023 year.

Mr. Miller nominated Ms. Mozak, seconded by Ms. Sims.

All in favor of nominating Ms. Mozak as Board Chair:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (attending virtually)
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairman Eric Mahler: Yes

All in favor, none opposed.

Mr. Mahler opened the floor for the nomination for Board Secretary for the 2023 year.

Ms. Mozak nominated Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Pollay.

All in favor of nominating Mr. Miller as Board Secretary:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (attending virtually)
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairman Eric Mahler: Yes

All in favor, none opposed.

Mr. Mahler opened the floor for the nomination for Board Treasurer for the 2023 year.

Mr. Chang nominated Mr. Allemang, seconded by Mr. Miller.

All in favor of nominating Mr. Allemang as Board Treasurer:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (attending virtually)
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairman Eric Mahler: Yes

All in favor, none opposed.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Board Meeting Minutes August 18, 2022

2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries

Mr. Miller motioned to approve Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Sims.

All in favor of accepting the consent agenda items:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (attending virtually)

Mr. Simi Barr: Yes

Mr. Rich Chang: Yes

Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes

Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes

Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes

Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes

Chairman Eric Mahler: Yes

The Consent Agenda was accepted as presented.

3. POLICY MONITORING & DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Budget Approval (Verbal)

Mr. Carpenter provided an overview of the fiscal 2023 budget approval package process which includes the 2.4 Financial Planning / Budgeting and 3.1.2 Fare Policy monitoring reports, followed by a passing of the presented budget.

3.1.1 (2.4) Financial Planning and Budgeting

Ms. Reed shared several highlights from the monitoring report and how they had been discussed at the Finance Committee level. They had recommended to the board that the monitoring report be accepted as A - compliant.

Ms. Mozak put forth a motion to accept the report as A – in compliance. Mr. Chang seconded the motion.

All in favor of accepting the report as A – in compliance:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (attending virtually)

Mr. Simi Barr: Yes

Mr. Rich Chang: Yes

Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes

Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes

Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes

Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes

Chairman Eric Mahler: Yes

The motion passed unanimously to accept the report as A – in compliance.

3.1.2 (2.5.12) Fare Policy

Ms. Reed shared the findings of the Fare Policy monitoring report that had been presented to the Finance Committee. She noted that the committee recommended to the board that the monitoring report be accepted as B –compliant except for items noted (2.5.12.2). The non-compliant item due to a failure to notify the public 30 days in advance of fare changes.

Ms. Sims put forth a motion to accept the report as B – compliant except for items noted (2.5.12.2). Ms. Mozak seconded the motion.

All in favor of accepting the report as B – compliant except for items noted (2.5.12.2):

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (attending virtually)
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairman Eric Mahler: Yes

The motion passed unanimously to accept the report as B – compliant except for items noted (2.5.12.2).

3.1.3 FY2023 Operating and Capital Budget Improvements

Ms. Reed presented to the board the [FY23 recommended budget](#) (pg. 77). In her presentation she reviewed the budget introduction, timeline, and processes for accepting the budget. She shared that she had received written questions/comments from the board and had responded to them to keep the board well-informed.

After her presentation, the board discussed various items within the budget – ridership building initiatives, provisions for sustainability, labor costs related to staff recruitment and uncertainties related to pandemic recovery.

After the discussion was completed, Mr. Mahler read the Board Resolution for the Adoption of the FY2023 Operating and Capital Budget.

Mr. Chang put forth a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

All in favor of adopting the resolution:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (attending virtually)
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairman Eric Mahler: Yes

The motion passed unanimously to adopt the FY2023 Operating and Capital Budget resolution.

3.2 Monitoring Task Force Report

Mr. Allemang provided the board with an update on the Monitoring Task Force – he shared that the group has recognized that the focus on redesigning monitoring surveys and is now focusing their efforts on improving and developing policies. Policy Governance consultant, Rose Mercier has advised that monitoring work and discussion has placed a higher emphasis on means, rather than ends.

The board went on to have a robust discussion regarding various methods (policy revisions, less frequent monitoring) to be more efficient with policy monitoring. They also discussed that policy review and revisions need to be a focus at the committee level, rather than board level.

3.3 (2.9) External Relationships

Mr. Carpenter shared several highlights from the monitoring report that had been presented to the Service Committee. He noted that the committee recommended to the board that the monitoring report be accepted as A – compliant.

Ms. Mozak also shared with the board that this policy was an example of a policy that needed review and the Service Committee was requesting additional time to discuss in order to bring forward future revisions.

Ms. Mozak put forth a motion to accept the report as A – in compliance. Mr. Chang seconded the motion.

All in favor of accepting the report as A – in compliance:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (attending virtually)

Mr. Simi Barr: Yes

Mr. Rich Chang: Yes

Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes

Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes

Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes

Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes

Chairman Eric Mahler: Yes

The motion passed unanimously to accept the report as A – in compliance.

4. STRATEGY & OPERATIONAL UPDATES

4.1 CEO Innovation Presentation

Mr. Carpenter provided the [CEO Innovation Presentation](#) to the Board (pg. 135) as a part of an annual policy for an innovation presentation. He shared insight on the concept of purposeful innovation and how this concept will be a lead-in for the future discussion around zero-emission bus propulsion. Included in the presentation was a video on the Gartner Hype Cycle which outlined methods for purposeful innovation that lead to constructive results.

Mr. Carpenter and Board members discussed topics of innovation and how the board determines the direction for the exploration and pursuit of those initiatives with the annual plan of work. Discussion centered on the importance of priorities and timing and the bandwidth for staff to carry out board initiatives. Further exploration of the topic will take place at the October 25, 2022 Board Retreat.

4.2 CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter provided an overview of the CEO Report and shared that 4 of 6 new paratransit buses had been recently received. He also shared that the Nova bus deliveries had been delayed due to the manufacturer. He also shared details for the upcoming Board Retreat in October.

5. EMERGENT ITEMS

No emergent items were noted.

6. CLOSING ITEMS

6.1 Topics for Next Meetings

- 2.8 Emergency Succession (Even Years)
- 2.11 Construction Policy
- Q4 Service Report
- Q4 Financial Report
- FTA Triennial Review Debrief

6.2 Public Comment

Mr. Pawlowski welcomed new board member, Simi Barr. He also shared his thoughts on free fare and how he is currently exploring the topic with his school district. He encouraged the organization to consider studying how it might have a positive impact for local students. He thanked Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Reed for their work on the budget. He finished by noting he'd recently visited with TARTA and is studying fare collections other organizations.

6.3 Adjournment

Ms. Mozak motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Pollay.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt