

## Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date/Time:** July 24, 2025 - 6:30pm – 9:00pm

**Location:** Riverside Arts Center, Ypsilanti (4<sup>th</sup> Floor)

Virtual attendance available via Zoom

**Members Present:** Kathleen Mozak (Chair), Mike Allemang (Treasurer), Jesse Miller (Secretary), Chris Allen, Simi Barr, Rich Chang, Julie Grand, Susan Pollay, Praveena Ramaswami, Georgia Valentine

Chairwoman Mozak called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Agenda Item
<b>1. OPENING ITEMS</b>
<b>1.1 Approve Agenda</b>
No additions or changes noted to the agenda.
Mr. Chang motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Miller.
No discussion on the motion.
All in favor of approving the agenda:
Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes
The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.
<b>1.2 Public Comment</b>
Mr. Forest Gregg requested the organization find ways for long-term detour information to be more accessible with online trip planning tools. He explained the challenge of using current online rider tools with ongoing road construction projects and a lack of updated route information in transit apps.
<b>1.3 General Announcements</b>
Chairwoman Mozak welcomed new Board member, Praveena Ramaswami who will be filling a vacant position for the City of Ann Arbor. She shared that Board Officer Elections will be taking place in September along with committee chairs and committee assignments. She also highlighted the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act and noted the Disability Network of Washtenaw, Macomb, Livingston would be hosting an event celebration and AAATA had sponsored a food truck.

## **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **2.1 Board Meeting Minutes: June 19, 2025**

### **2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries**

### **2.3 FY26 Committee/Board Meeting Dates & Alternative Meeting Location Dates**

### **2.4 Board Administrative Budget**

Mr. Allemang motioned to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Valentine.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Consent Agenda:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes

Mr. Chris Allen: Yes

Mr. Simi Barr: Yes

Mr. Rich Chang: Yes

Ms. Julie Grand: Yes

Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes

Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes

Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes

Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes

Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

## **3. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE**

### **3.1 Ownership Linkage Task Force Updates**

Mr. Chang provided an update on meeting coordination's with Ann Arbor City Council members and Ypsilanti Township members. Scheduling conflicts have pushed out meeting dates to later summer.

## **4. MONITORING / DEVELOPMENT**

### **4.1 Board Meeting Run Time**

Chairwoman Mozak shared the results/ comments from a recent survey which gathered input from board members on ways to more efficiently conduct board meetings. Board members agreed to keep the meeting time to 2.5 hours (current time) and move the meeting start time back to 6pm. Board members decided not to implement speaking limits but (when possible) were receptive to receiving videos of presentations ahead of meetings. The video links would also be included with the publicly posted board packets. They also agreed that when monitoring report surveys had 100% approval responses, the report could be placed on the Consent Agenda for approval (but could be taken off if anyone wanted further discussion).

## **5. POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

## **6. BOARD EDUCATION / DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Determining Reasonableness**

Governance consultant Sue Radwan provided an educational presentation on the topic of reasonableness when assessing the CEO's interpretation of board policy ([7/24/25 AAATA Board of Director's meeting packet, pg. 30](#)). She shared guidance on the philosophical

foundations of Policy Governance and the concept of “any reasonable interpretation” and the importance of focusing on results rather than means when reviewing CEO monitoring reports.

Board members used a prior monitoring report on Environmental Sustainability as an example of when CEO interpretations may not have been clearly understood. Members also discussed the importance of clear communication and rationale in monitoring reports and look forward to continued Policy Governance educational opportunities.

Chairwoman Mozak recommended Ms. Radwan’s guidance would be a useful addition to the Board Policy Manual.

## **7. OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

### **7.1 Business Plan**

Mr. Carpenter thanked Board members and staff for feedback on the Business Plan and provided highlights on several changes – one major change requested by Board members was the removal of the term “low priority” which has been replaced with the categories of core services, ridership growth and value-added services. Work on the FY26 Corporate Business Plan is complete – however, Mr. Carpenter noted that it is a living document and subject to updates based on new information.

### **7.2 FY2026 Budget Preview**

Ms. Reed presented the FY26 Budget preview ([7/24/25 AAATA Board of Director's meeting packet, pg. 88](#)) noting that the operating budget for FY26 is approximately \$70 million, balanced with no fare increases planned and all capital projects fully funded. State operating assistance is expected to be around 26%, a decrease from previous years that will have impact on the budget. The capital budget for FY26 is approximately \$29-30 million with federal and state funding contributions for capital projects. She also shared information on key risks which include fluctuations in state operating assistance and federal funding for capital projects. Board members were encouraged to provide feedback throughout the budget process to ensure alignment with the business plan and board goals

### **7.3 CEO Report & Legislative Updates**

Mr. Carpenter congratulated staff on completing the NEPA process and Triennial Review. He also shared that the trademark process for logos is also nearing final completion.

Mr. Pfeifer shared updates on federal and state funding.

## **8. EMERGENT ITEMS**

## **9. CLOSING ITEMS**

### **9.1 Action Item Recap**

- Staff will contact the AA District Library to confirm the 6pm Board meeting start time – beginning in October.
- Staff will send Board members the committee/board meeting calendar invitations for the next fiscal year
- Add reasonableness document to the Board Policy Manual appendix
- Corporate Business plan will be added to the website

## **9.2 Topics for Next Meeting**

Governance Process Policies (3.0-3.4)  
Policy Development - Policy 3.2 Job Description  
BTC Authorizations  
Draft Budget  
Public Hearing RE: Budget  
FY25 Q3 Financial Report  
Future:  
State Funding (Education)

## **9.3 Public Comment**

No public commenters.

## **9.4 Adjournment**

Ms. Valentine motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Allemang.

There was no discussion on the motion.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes  
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes  
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes  
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes  
Ms. Julie Grand: Yes  
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes  
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes  
Ms. Praveena Ramaswami: Yes  
Ms. Georgia Valentine: Yes  
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Mozak adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt

