

Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 18, 2018

6:34 p.m.

Ann Arbor District Library, 343 South Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Present: Eric Mahler (Chair), Eli Cooper, Roger Hewitt, Mike Allemang, Sue Gott, Larry Krieg, Kyra Sims, Kathleen Mozak-Betts, Jesse Miller, Prashanth Gururaja

Staff: Matt Carpenter, Bryan Smith, John Metzinger, Gretchen Johnson, Geri Barnstable

Chairman Eric Mahler called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

1) Opening Items

1. Approve Agenda

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order. Ms. Sims approved the motion and Mr. Cooper seconded it. Mr. Allemang added a motion to review Policy 2.4.5 under the Financial Committee Report.

2. Public Comment

Jim Mogenson commented on the presentation tonight about mobility and technology asking why this is being done. He questioned if it's because it's really helping to become more efficient or is it just because "it's cool".

3. General Announcements

1. Introduce General Counsel: Dykema

Chairman Mahler introduced the new legal counsel representative, Mr. Mel Muskovitz of the law firm Dykema. Mr. Chairman described what they would be advising on, as well as noting that Dykema is in many states and has several offices in Michigan. There will be 5 lawyers who will handle a broad amount of work and other lawyers will be on the team as needed. He noted that the team is already working on projects.

2) Consent Agenda

1. Minutes

Chairman Mahler, Mr. Allemang and Mr. Hewitt reviewed the Governance, Finance and Service Committee Meetings respectively.

2. Updated Schedule for Monitoring Reports

Chairman Mahler called for a vote. It passed with all in favor except one abstention by Ms. Gott.

3) Board Development

1. Board Education: New Mobility Technology

Dr. Johnathan Levine, an Urban Planner at the University of Michigan presented on new technologies and their implications for transportation planning. He noted that for planners, technology should enable smart policy which means focusing on the implications. He stated that for planners, technology should enable policies which lead to goals such as social justice; therefore, technology is not an end in itself. He talked about self-driving cars, the various options, advantages and disadvantages of each. He then recommended aiming toward an integration of on demand mobility with conventional public transit that would include on demand vehicles for low density areas and big buses and trains serving high volume areas. Many questions and much discussion followed. Chairman Mahler noted that the goal, should be moving people, not vehicles, therefore smart planning should focus on what is being offered to the public and that how it is communicated is important. There were questions about a good approach and Dr. Levine stated that no systems have been implemented that he is aware of but that there is a lot of experimentation going on. The aspect of land use was brought up.

4) Policy Monitoring and Development

1. Board's Annual Plan of Work Item

1. Annual Plan of Word + Education

Chairman Mahler noted the brief that is in the Board Packet, which included some ideas, and that he would like to set the Annual Plan of Work by this time next month, especially because there is a Board Retreat coming up soon. Possible Retreat Topics were discussed in particular, Resource Allocation and where the Authority will fit into the future of transit options such as those identified by Dr. Levine. Mr. Miller suggested adding land use advocacy. Chairman Mahler noted there are additional things that could be advocated for. Mr. Carpenter asked what that would look like as it relates to other groups we must co-exist with in this jurisdiction. Chairman Mahler will circulate ideas for discussion in each Committee before the next Board meeting, so that they can be voted on then.

2. Policy Monitoring and Committee Reports

1. Governance Committee

Chairman Mahler reported potential topics for the Board Retreat were discussed. Those topics included Ownership Linkage and Resource Allocation. He noted that the retreat comes up in January.

2. Finance Committee

Mr. Allemang reported that Mr. Carpenter brought a guest, Mr. Matt Webb of the RTA, who talked about planning policies they're trying to put in place to get them moving again. Modifying Policy 2.4.5 was discussed as well as spending guidelines for the CEO and the number of years an auditing firm should serve. Mr. Miller joined the Ownership Linkage Task Force and they agreed they would like the assistance of Rose Mercier to launch it. After reviewing the September 20th Board's direction to make a determination regarding Policy 2.4.5., it was agreed to propose to the Board that this be deleted. Chairman asked for a vote on this. Mr. Allemang made a motion to delete the policy, Ms. Sims seconded, and the vote was unanimous to delete Policy 2.4.5

3. Service Committee

a. Policy Update: 2.1 Treatment of Riders

Mr. Hewitt reported that ideas for the plan of work as well as Mr. Clark's concerns from the September 20th Board Meeting were discussed as they related to Policy 2.1.3.1. He requested a discussion of the wording of that policy tonight. It was discussed extensively then Mr. Hewitt moved to approve final changes. Mr. Krieg seconded. Chairman Mahler called for a vote. Ms. Gott seconded. The final changes passed unanimously.

3. Other Board Reports & Ownership Linkages

1. LAC, WATS, A2 Transportation Commission

Local Advisory Council: A Chairman, Cheryl Weber, and Vice Chairman, Larry Keller, were elected and there was a Michigan Mobility Report.

a Michigan Mobility Report

Washentaw Area Transportation Study: Mr. Krieg missed the meeting but, he expects the long range urban and rural plan was passed.

A2 Transportation Commission: Ms. Sims reported scooters were discussed, Subcommittees were formed, public school drop-offs and safety initiatives were also discussed.

5) Strategy and Operational Updates: CEO

1. CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter had nothing to add to the report that is in the packet.

6) Emergent Business

None.

7) Closing Items

1. Topics for Next Meeting: Board Retreat, Annual Plan of Work, Mr. Allemang added items from the Financial Committee Report, Quarter 4 Reports, Year End Report, Monitoring Report 2.2

Treatment of Staff

2. Public Comment

Jim Mogenson commented that the Board should focus on financing for density and a plan of what costs would be, long-term roadblocks.

3. Board Assessment of Meeting

None.

4. Adjournment

Mr. Hewitt moved to adjourn. Mr. Allemang seconded. The vote was a unanimous "yes". Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Geri Barnstable