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## Board Minutes – Jan. 24, 2019

**Recommended Action(s):** Approve for Posting to Website

**Information Type:** Decision

**Meeting Information:** Ann Arbor District Library, January 24, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Eric Mahler, Kyra Sims, Prashanth Gururaja, Mike Allemang, Roger Hewitt, Jesse Miller, Kathleen Mozak-Betts, Larry Krieg

**Staff in Attendance:** Matt Carpenter, John Metzinger, Bryan Smith, Tim Sanderson, Geri Barnstable

Chairman Eric Mahler noted that a Quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

### 1) Opening Items

#### 1. Approve Agenda

Mr. Miller moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Allemang seconded. All approved the agenda.

#### 2. Public Comment

Mr. Jim Mogensen, from the public spoke about a meeting he attended where the discussion was that increasing the density of the population in certain areas of Ann Arbor would lead to increased fares. However, it is not that simple. More needs to happen for that to work.

Mr. Yuri Popov spoke, a lifelong user of public transportation who is also a teacher at the University of Michigan and a member of the advisory board for the Detroit Connector. Speaking on his own behalf about the Washtenaw Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project, he supports the overall project however it leaves out an important item, that none of the proposed routes service both Central Campus and the Hospital. As it is currently planned, the University of Michigan Central Campus is served by one remote stop. He circulated a possible addition to this. He believes it is vital to establish a stop as close to the Central Campus as possible because that is the busiest transit hub in Ann Arbor. He outlined the benefits to doing this. Then he requested that the Board consider that the Bus Rapid Transit serve both the Central Campus and the university hospitals. Chairman Mahler said they would take that under advisement.

#### 3. Mr. Clark Churnetski wrote the bus traffic transit system in Grand Rapids and the Q Line in Detroit. These were high density areas with stops closer together to serve a lot of people. He echoed what was said previously that Central Campus and the Medical Center must be served because they are prime locations.

#### 4. General Announcements

None.

## 2) Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from Board Meeting in December 2018 were moved for approval. The motion passed.
2. Required Approval: MDOT Funding Resolution  
Chairman Mahler asked for a vote of those in favor of both agenda items. Both passed unanimously.

## 3) Board Development

### 1. Education re: Transit Supportive Land Development

Dr. Johnathan Levine spoke about transit supporting land use development, acknowledging that the AAATA has no direct decision-making authority over this. He stated that he will argue transportation, as it relates to land use development, is at the heart of environmental performance. (He noted that even though the U.S. pulled out of the 2015 Paris Accord to cut greenhouse emissions, many groups, including cities and counties in the U.S. are still following it.) New residents have a significant impact on emissions by their choice of transit. That choice is usually determined by zoning and when exclusionary zoning puts these people in farther off places, they have a decreased chance of using public transit. So, land use is also tied to transportation and thereby, environmental performance. He gave examples of cities such as San Francisco, demonstrating that environmental performance is tied to geography, not demography. He provided statistics on how people travel to work locally in various locations. Those within the city have a smaller carbon footprint than those traveling from farther out. So, the cities are more efficient, and zoning defines usage. He gave the example of Minneapolis permitting multi-resident housing in a program called "Neighbors for More Neighbors Share Our City" which lead new residents to choose city living.

Dr. Levine presented 3 levels of policy reform to address exclusionary zoning:

- 1) Education of governing groups for example, cities eliminating parking requirements which make it more affordable to live in those areas.
- 2) Incentive where Regional Authorities evaluate land use policies of municipalities and will not spend money on those that are "hostile" to transit.
- 3) Power Sharing Level of Regionalism is where Regional Authorities and municipalities make a joint decision, but the Regional Authorities can intervene if the municipalities' choice is not environmentally friendly.

Dr. Levine concluded that even though it is not a direct decision-maker, the AAATA can articulate what constitutes good development and be an advocate for that as have other boards in town, such as the library. Questions and discussions followed much focusing on how AAATA could impact the land use decisions in Arbor Area.

## 4) Policy Monitoring and Development

### 1. Board's Annual Plan of Work

Chairman Mahler announced that the return of the Board Member Disclosure Forms can be moved to next month. Mr. Allemang noted that under the January Service Committee it says 2.2 but it is really 2.1

### 2. Policy Monitoring and Committee Reports

#### 1. Governance Committee

Chairman Mahler reported that they discussed Board Retreat planning, CEO expenses, Task Forces and a pipeline of Board candidates being built for that. He announced that a ½ day Retreat Planning would be to filter ideas for the full day retreat to make that efficient and provide the staff with direction. He requested Board Members come to the ½ day retreat with ideas, so a consensus can be reached. Mr. Smith gave an Art Fair Report.

#### 2. Finance Committee

Did not meet.

### 3. Service Committee

Mr. Hewitt reported that for the majority of the meeting Treatment of the Traveling Public was discussed and Mr. Carpenter will present that later. Whether Executive Limitations are being met is still in progress. The minimum has been set but they asked how to go beyond to the aspirational goals. Mr. Carpenter announced that a website consultant has been hired to determine what to improve to make the website more efficient. Mr. Smith gave an update on Art Fair and there was an update on the Ann Arbor-Detroit Express.

### 3. Other Board Reports & Ownership Linkage

#### 1. LAC, WATS, A2 Transportation Commission

Ms. Mozak-Betts announced that the LAC did not meet.

Mr. Krieg reported that WATS passed its Audit with flying colors.

Ms. Simms reported that the Commission passed a statement of values revised from December and went to the City Council. The Annual Report was also approved for submission to the City Council. The 2019 Work Plan was discussed which is relevant to AAATA because it includes our Strategic Business Plan. Mr. Cooper and a consultant gave a presentation on "Vision Zero" whose main message is safety.

#### 2. Task Force Reports

##### Ownership Linkage

Mr. Allemang reported that there was nothing urgent in Finance to report. They made it a Task Force Meeting since 3 of the 4 members of Ownership Linkage were present. Mr. Cooper also participated. Mr. Krieg was not present. The focus was on how to communicate with legal stakeholders starting with the Mayor, then the City Council. The next meeting will be in February.

##### Resource Allocation

Chairman reported that the meeting was postponed until early February.

### 5) Strategy and Operational Updates: CEO

#### 1. Monitoring Report 2.1: Treatment of Traveling Public

Mr. Carpenter apologized that the report was incomplete and stated that they are recruiting for staff to help. There is some overlap with the Ends Statements. Minimum standards, which begin with the Monitoring Reports, are being met but there needs to be a way to track that this is being done continuously, using objective evidence. Mr. Carpenter gave an example from Executive Limitations Item 2.1.1, meeting ADA regulations as being objective evidence. He will ask Ms. Mercier how to address exceeding minimum requirements. Questions and discussion followed. Chairman Mahler suggested they vote on what they have. It was unanimously voted that the report is accepted with the incomplete items that were noted.

#### 2. CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter announced that projects such as improvements on the Washtenaw Line and a Federal Grant for autonomous vehicles. Mr. Metzinger reported that we currently are not impacted by the Federal Government shutdown and we have sufficient cash on hand to continue through 2019 if necessary. In March, if the shutdown is still in place, it will be decided whether to defer some capital projects. Contingency plans will be considered if the shutdown goes into summer and Fiscal Year 20/20.

6) Emergent Business

None.

7) Closing Items

1. Topics for Next Meeting: Board Member Disclosure Statements Due (3.3.2.1), Discuss Board Retreat
2. Public Comment
  - Mr. Popov would like to see general messages that are on the buses replaced by rate information.
  - Mr. Churnetski stated that regarding Dr. Levine's talk, we need to build downtown and the higher density that is being added should be looked at.
  - Mr. Mogensen stated there should be a system to learn what the smaller items on the route are.
3. Board Assessment of Meeting
  - Meeting assessment came up at the Governance Meeting. He will reach out to Rose Mercier meanwhile, he has a form which he will send out.
4. Adjournment
  - Mr. Hewitt motioned for adjournment. Mr. Miller seconded. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Geri Barnstable