

Board Minutes – April 18, 2019

Recommended Action(s): Approve

Information Type: Decision

Meeting Information: Ann Arbor District Library, April 18, 2019. 6:38 p.m.- 9:56 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, William DeGroot, Julia Roberts, Geri Barnstable

Chairman Mahler noted that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m.

1) Opening Items

1. Approve Agenda

Chairman Mahler requested the agenda be moved into the record. Mr. Hewitt made a motion to do so. Ms. Sims seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the agenda.

2. Public Comment

Ms. Michelle Barney noted that the old times for the YTC are in the new schedule, so it doesn't reflect the change to extended Sunday night service. She also noted that for the past 10 days there have been many mistakes with reservations and same day calls. She described late pick ups and drivers going to the wrong location.

3. General Announcements.

None.

Farewells.

Chairman Mahler noted that the Board is losing 2 of its most valued members. Mr. Krieg, who served on the Service Committee, also represented WATS, was an advocate for many things and they are grateful for him. Mr. Gururaja was a very strong advocate for the citizens. He also served on the Ann Arbor Transportation Commission, the Citizens' Advisory for the RTA and was on the Finance Committee.

Mr. Krieg spoke about leaving 3 challenges for the Board: continue Policy Governance, avoid business as usual and know who you govern. He elaborated on each one and thanked the Supervisors and the Board of Trustees of Ypsilanti Township, as well as Mr. Carpenter and his staff for providing a great transportation system; he also thanked the Board of Directors.

Mr. Gururaja thanked everyone for the honor of serving and noted how much he has learned with Chairman Mahler, Mr. Krieg and the Mayor encouraging him though he was without civic experience. He encouraged others to do the same because it does matter. He cited the most important things the Board did while he was on it were Policy Governance and the Millage. He believes that climate change will become important and Policy Governance will allow the AAATA to help make transit better in people's lives.

2) Consent Agenda

1. Minutes (February and March)

Ms. Mozak-Betts noted her feeling that the minutes were too general, and more content was needed such as the March minutes not mentioning the false active shooter on that day. Mr. Krieg agreed.

OPEB Filing

Mr. Metzinger presented this as a resolution. The Consent Agenda Item with changes was voted by consensus into the record.

3) Policy Monitoring and Development

1. Board's Annual Plan of Work

Chairman Mahler stated that the CEO Evaluation will be done by later this month.

2. Committee Reports

1. Governance Committee

a. 3.1 Governing Style

b. Retreat Planning

Chairman Mahler announced that going forward the format will be taken from Ms. Mercier's report. He noted that comments from the Board will be helpful and encouraged turning in the questionnaire they will have for each meeting going forward, according to the Annual Plan of Work. Chairman Mahler reported that Ms. Mercier is working on an agenda for the full day retreat. He announced that the retreat will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn and they will take feedback tonight and, in the future, to create the agenda.

2. Coaching Advisory Report

Chairman Mahler asked if the report was helpful. Ms. Sims noted that it was helpful to focus on Policy Governance, but processes are needed for implementing the suggestions. There was more discussion about items from Ms. Mercier and more formal processes.

2. Finance Committee

Mr. Allemang reported that the Monitoring Report on Cash + Investments was discussed, in particular that it is now looked at once a year but starting next month, it will be looked at quarterly. He noted that there was also an Ownership Linkage Report which will be presented later in this agenda. The Fare Study was discussed, and OPEB passed without discussion. Mr. Metzinger noted that OPEB is just a re-classification that doesn't affect reserves.

3. Monitoring Reports

1. 2.11 Communication + Support

Mr. Carpenter noted that all the Board Members have a survey about this to advise him on how satisfied they are with what they are getting from him. He noted that policies were made by the Board stating how and when to have communications with the staff.

He reported that there is no ongoing construction but proposals for bus replacements are expected June 7 and that he should have mentioned the process to the Board therefore he was non-compliant. Mr. Carpenter stated that he was partially compliant with CEO Expenses, but July was missing. He felt that he was overall compliant with Policy 2.11. Mr. Carpenter asked that this be accepted as "B". Mr. Hewitt made a motion to vote, seconded by Mr. Krieg. It was passed unanimously.

2. 2.6 Cash + Investments

Mr. Metzinger presented the report and details of the Policy were discussed, in particular fuel futures and that assets were held in a liquid fashion. He did not believe that futures were compliant, so he will cancel the contract when it expires May 1 and transfer to investments for full compliance. There was discussion of the compliance, including fuel futures. Mr. Allemang reported that the Finance Committee all agreed that Policy 2.6 was in compliance except for fuel futures. Mr. Allemang motioned for a vote, Mr. Hewitt seconded, and it passed unanimously.

4. Other Board Reports & Ownership Linkage

1. LAC, WATS, A2 Transportation Commission

LAC

Ms. Weber reported that all attended the LAC Meeting and they were excited about Qstraint. She noted that many experienced problems scheduling rides, but that Paratransit was on time 90% of the time.

WATS

Mr. Krieg reported that WATS did not meet this month.

A2 Transportation Commission

Ms. Sims reported that Chris Simmons, of AAATA, presented a survey on GoPass/Get Downtown with details provided. She noted there was an update on scooters, there was a discussion about cross walks and as part of the Ann Arbor Budget, the Transportation Commission passed a resolution on the transportation portion of it. There was also an update on transportation projects in the city.

Task Forces

Ownership Linkage

Mr. Allemang reported that a week ago they met with the first legal owners, Mayor Taylor and Howard Lazarus of Ann Arbor. He noted that the goal was just to touch base, that it was a good meeting and that it was good to have Board Members attend. He also announced that they would be meeting with the new mayor of the City of Ypsilanti in May and hoped to meet with Ypsilanti Township in June.

4) Strategy and Operational Updates: CEO

1. Fare Study Introduction

Mr. Metzinger announced that he would be introducing the results of a research project completed in 2018. He stated that because it is very complicated, it will be presented in 2 pieces with the second part following next month. He reviewed the goals of the study and noted that the fare structure is very complicated because it has been created by piece meal decisions through the years with no particular

strategy. Mr. Metzinger announced that tonight he would present Memos 1,2 and 4. He then addressed where AAATA funding came from as well as gave examples of different methods used to collect fares. Mr. Metzinger noted that we were compared with peers and were very close to the average but that fares are entirely a local decision. Additional details of the study were presented, in particular the lack of consistency, that the Board Policy Manual says something about fares and the Board is who adjusts them. He announced that next month he would present more detail for a fare discussion. A discussion about fares and the study followed.

2. Innovation Updates

Mr. Sanderson reported what is being done, what is driving it and a vision of the final product. He stated that the goal is to leverage different technologies to meet the technological needs of the community. He summarized current projects, including the New Mobility Toolkit which is about autonomous vehicles that won't happen for many years. Other projects reviewed were about Flex Ride, Transit Signal Priorities, the Enhanced Transit Corridor, Mobil Ticketing, the Quantum Project and Humanizing Autonomy. He provided details on each project.

CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter announced that there was not one.

5) Emergent Business

None.

6) Closed Session

Mr. Miller moved for a Closed Session seconded by Mr. Hewitt. There was a voice vote which was unanimous at 9:10 pm

7) Closing Items

1. Topics for Next Meeting: Board Assessment will come out, Paratransit, Q2 Reports, Retreats

2. Public Comment

1. None

3. Board Assessment of Meeting

4. Adjournment

1. Mr. Hewitt moved to adjourn seconded by Mr. Krieg. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted Respectfully,
Geri Barnstable