

**Taxicab Board Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2008**

Members Present: Barbara Krick Sarah Singleton Mike Anglin
 Robert Snider Margie Teall

Members Absent: Faith Meadows

Guests: John Etter, Blue Cab
 Richard Clark, Amazing Blue Taxi
 Dave Reid, Select Ride
 Merlyn Wade, Ann Arbor Taxi Transport
 Dave Buchel, Select Ride
 Anthony Maldonado, Campus Cab
 Officer Sean Lee, Ann Arbor Police Dept.

CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. by Robert Snider.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY – None

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Regular Taxicab Board meeting minutes, December 20, 2007. **Barbara Krick moved to approve the minutes of December 20, 2007. Margie Teall seconded. The motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Taxicab Rate Increase

David Reid of Yellow Cab asked the Board to consider a taxicab meter rate increase. Mr. Reid said that the cost of gas continues to go up as well as volatility being a factor. The current rate structure is not efficient and cannot be addressed with an incremental mileage increase every couple of years. Most alarming is the news that gas is projected to go up to \$4.00 per gallon and even higher. Mr. Reid feels that instituting a fluctuating surcharge may be the only way to deal with the rising cost of gas. Mr. Reid proposed that the Board approve the manual programming of taxicab meters by drivers, allowing the drivers to activate an extra fuel surcharge with a \$.10 or \$.25 per trip increment based on the local fuel cost published by AAA on the third Thursday of each month.

Mr. Reid suggested that city staff monitor AAA fuel rates and send out a bulletin to cab companies on a monthly basis. Officer Lee was not opposed to checking the fuel rates on a monthly basis.

Merlyn Wade suggested raising the flag drop by \$1.00 rather than raising the rate per mile.

Anthony Maldonado of Campus Cab and John Etter of Blue Cab stated that other cities have deregulated meter rates and the process seems to work for most taxicab companies. They asked that Ann Arbor consider deregulating. Merlyn Wade of Ann Arbor Taxi Transport said that he would rather see an increase in rates as suggested by David Reid of Yellow Cab than deregulating.

Bob Snider stated that we need to make sure the public is aware of what is going on. He believes that they will accept a surcharge due to rising cost everywhere.

Margie Teall moved to postpone discussion of taxicab rate increase until the Board hears from Tom Crawford and Kristen Larcom regarding the matter. The Board asked that a special Taxicab Board meeting be set as soon as possible. Barbara Krick seconded. The motion passed.

Company Application Approval – Campus Cab

Margie Teall moved to approve Campus Cab company application. Mike Anglin seconded. The motion passed.

Clair Champion – Reliable Cab

Chair Champion has a one year temporary license, resulting from not renewing his taxicab license, during which he has been asked by the Board to reappear and update the Board on any new violations. Mr. Champion received a moving violation that will be heard today in court. Officer Lee stated that he has had no other complaints regarding Mr. Champion. The Board asked that Mr. Champion come back before the Board at the end of his suspension or if he receives any new violations.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Krick moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Ms. Teall. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.