

Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 20, 2018

6:30 p.m.

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

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

Chairman Eric Mahler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1) Opening Items

1. Approve Agenda

Chairman Mahler asked that the Agenda be moved into the record. Mr. Hewitt made a motion to do so with Ms. Sims seconding. The Chairman added under 6a., Resolution 11 for the CEO Evaluation.

At 6:33 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Cooper to approve the agenda, seconded by Dr. Krieg. On a unanimous vote, Chairman Mahler declared the motion adopted.

1. Public Comment

Ken Clark, a cyclist, spoke about Executive Limitations. He lives on Plymouth Road and bikes everywhere except in the winter when he takes the bus. He is concerned about how buses interact with cyclists. He provided details of a specific incident. He reported it to our website with no response and when he called, the person he spoke to did not get back to him as promised. He says he has made many complaints over the years. There are Executive Limitations to deal with riders and staff but nothing for the general public. He proposed the Board consider a policy for that.

Jim Moegensen observed that the updated website is not so easy to use.

2. General Announcements

1. Chairman Mahler announced that there are 2 new Board Members, Kathleen Mozak-Betts and Jesse Miller. Ms. Mozak-Betts is known to the Board from providing the LAC reports. She stated that she is an avid bus rider, looks forward to serving for the next 5 years, and hopes to lend a different voice to the Board. Mr. Miller stated that he has been riding the buses for a long time and is excited to be here.

2) Consent Agenda & Required Approvals

1. Minutes (June + August + September)

Chairman Mahler reviewed the topics and asked if there were any questions. He stated each one and noted that the Committee Meeting notes are on their chairs.

3) Board Development: Election of Board Officers

1. Chairman Mahler stated that the Nominating Committee was Dr. Krieg and Ms. Gott. Dr. Krieg stated that according to the By-Laws each office must be voted on separately and secretly. Nominations come from the floor, so he started as a regular Board Member, by nominating Mr. Mahler who has accepted to serve as Chairman for the next year. Dr. Krieg stated that if a vote is unanimous they can elect each person by acclamation. Chairman Mahler was voted in unanimously. The second open office was Secretary. Ms. Sims was nominated and accepted. There were no other candidates, so it was proposed the vote be by acclamation. It was unanimous. The third vote was for Treasurer. Mr. Cooper accepted the nomination by Dr. Krieg. The vote was a unanimous “yes”.

4) Policy Monitoring and Development

1. Board’s Annual Plan of Work Item
 - a. Draft Calendar + Board Plan of Work
Chairman Mahler is working on a draft for review, to set priorities with input to hopefully adopt and set forward as a plan for the next Fiscal Year. He brought up various topics for thought including resource allocation, Board Education, new mobility. This was meant to generate discussion tonight. He requested ideas. There was a discussion including resource allocation and technology. Chairman Mahler noted that the content will drive the schedule and the Board will discuss priorities but not set process. Regarding resource allocation, Chairman Mahler noted that staff capabilities of Innovation and Planning must be taken into account. There was more discussion. Chairman Mahler requested they get back to him and Mr. Carpenter with any ideas.
2. Governance Committee
Chairman Mahler reported that the main focus was the CEO Evaluation which went well. He also noted that a temporary secretary was needed for tonight’s meeting and Ms. Sims agreed to do it.
3. Finance Committee
Mr. Cooper reported that 3 primary issues were discussed: the calendar that was just discussed, the update to the Strategic Business Plan and the Budget.
4. Service Committee
Mr. Hewitt reported that Ms. Mozak-Betts was welcomed and discussed were the Annual Plan of Work, updates to the Strategic Business Plan and feedback on the Budget.
5. Other Board Reports & Ownership Linkages
 1. LAC, WATS, A2 Transportation Commission
Local Advisory Council: Kathleen Mozak-Betts couldn’t technically present the Report but did so in lieu of another representative. Her resignation and 3 open positions were discussed.

Washentaw Area Transportation Study: Dr. Krieg reported that a lot went on and gave details on several topics including Ann Arbor working on ordinances for motorized scooters, joint service with Wayne County and that very ambitious goals were expressed.

A2 Transportation Commission

Ms. Sims reported that the discussion included scooters with regard to U of M and there was an update on BikeShare.

5) Strategy and Operational Updates: CEO

1. Strategic Business Plan Update

Mr. Carpenter stated that he and Mr. Metzinger will start the decision-making parts of the meeting today. He gave the history of the Strategic Business Plan and noted that the document had reached a maturation point and is finalized for now but that there will be annual updates and the staff will take its direction from the Board on implementation. All the feedback was appreciated which has put a mechanism in place for the Board to establish priorities. He was happy to answer questions. There were some comments and some questions.

2. Monitoring Report 2.4: Financial Planning/Budgeting (Acceptance)

Mr. Metzinger stated that the Budget would be presented in 2 steps. First, to determine if it has met the expectations set by the Board. Second, if it has, the Budget would be adopted. There was extensive discussion of details of the Budget including what we are in compliance with, what constitutes a reserve. Mr. Carpenter requested the Board's clarification on providing evidence of compliance to the Board on Policy 2.4.5. What level of detail are they seeking? It was suggested that Rose Mercier might be engaged to assist with this. Discussion of the efficiencies of a Budget followed. It was recommended this conversation continue in the Finance Committee.

3. 2019 Budget (Discussion and Approval)

Mr. Metzinger presented the Operating and Capital Budgets. He noted the Budget must be adopted by October 1st and today he will be presenting the recommended Budget. He gave a history of the process leading up to this point. This Budget contains no deficits, as required by State Law. He noted that it has been determined that this Budget meets the expectations of the Board, so he presented a Resolution for the Board to adopt it. There was more discussion of various parts of the Budget then, Chairman Mahler asked if they were ready to vote. They were, and the Resolution to adopt the Budget was passed unanimously.

4. CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter stated that this was a supplement to the written report. There were many comments about the YTC and emerging technology. Bikeshare is being phased back onto campus at U of M. Next week we have the Triennial Review by the FTA. More findings are expected based upon what he has heard from other transit agencies. There was a question about an AirRide stop in Ypsilanti but there have been no conversations about that while working through the airport logistics. We are waiting to hear back about discretionary grants

we have applied for and he has been elected Vice President of the Board of the MPTA.

6) Emergent Business

Chairman Mahler noted that Resolution 11, CEO Compensation, has been presented. He asked if anyone wanted to discuss it. They did not. Mr. Hewitt made a motion to vote on it and Ms. Sims seconded it. Mr. Cooper reminded the Board of the successful organization that has been built with substantial change and a wonderful victory at the polls. The vote passed unanimously.

6) Closing Items

1. Topics for Next Meeting: Annual Plan of Work, discussion of a retreat, Board Education.
2. Public Comment
There was none.
3. Board Assessment of Meeting
Mr. Cooper noted there was a healthy discussion this evening and there have been great strides in moving forward. Mr. Gururaja asked Mr. Carpenter if he had a response to the treatment of the public that was brought up by a member of the public at the beginning of this meeting. Chairman Mahler suggested putting it on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Carpenter noted that Section 2.10 in the Policy Manual on External Relationships might be similar and asked if the Board thought there was room for a policy in this area. Chairman Mahler suggested putting it on the agenda for next month's meeting. Dr. Krieg suggested this be discussed in the Service Committee. Chairman Mahler suggested it be circulated to the Board and that Mr. Hewitt put it on the Service Committee Agenda.
4. Chairman Mahler adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.
5. Adjournment
Dr. Krieg moved to adjourn with support from Ms. Sims. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by
Geri Barnstable