

**METRO RTA
BOARD MINUTES
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARD ROOM
VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021
9:00 A.M.**

Trustees Present: (all via teleconference) Robert DeJournett, Nick Fernandez, Gary Spring, Mark Derrig, Heather Heslop Licata, Renee Greene, Vincent Rubino, Donald Christian, Louise Gissendaner, David Prentice, Chuck Rector

METRO Team Members Present: Dawn Distler, Angela Neeley, Bambi Miller, Valerie Shea, Jarrod Hampshire, DeHavilland McCall, Shawn Metcalf, Jay Hunter

Guests Present: Dr. Daniel Van Epps, Suzie Graham, Justin Linette, Helen Carroll

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. DeJournett called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

In keeping with Governor DeWine's order of social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, audience participation is suspended for this meeting. No comments had been conveyed to the CEO by the Friday prior to this meeting.

RECOGNITION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. DeJournett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2020 meeting. Mr. Derrig made a motion for approval, second by Ms. Greene. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. DeJournett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2021 special meeting. Mr. Rector made a motion for approval, second by Mr. Derrig. The minutes were unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. DeJournett to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending or intimate litigation. Mr. DeJournett requested Ms. Distler and Ms. Carroll from Roetzel & Andress be present. Roll call was conducted.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:10 a.m. The Board exited Executive Session at 10:01 a.m. Roll call was conducted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RESOLUTIONS

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Gary Spring

Mr. Spring presented the Resolution to the Board.

Resolution 2021-01: A resolution authorizing the purchase of specialized legal services above and beyond METRO's daily legal needs. Those who voted 'yes' were Mr. Spring, Mr. Rubino, Mr. Rector, Mr. Christian, Ms. Greene, Mr. Derrig, and Mr. DeJournett. Mr. Prentice, Ms. Licata, and Ms. Gissendaner voted 'nay.' Resolution 2021-01 passed.

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & SERVICE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Mark Derrig

Mr. Derrig reported the committee met on November 18. Mr. Derrig thanked Mr. Hampshire for giving him a tour of the new Independence Transit Center and new buses. The nine new buses are scheduled to hit the road in February. Mr. Derrig commended Ms. Miller and her team for their efforts in recording impressive and consistent KPIs throughout 2020.

Mr. Derrig asked Ms. Suzie Graham, CEO of Downtown Akron Partnership, to introduce the Resolution to the Board.

Resolution 2021-02: A resolution authorizing a contract between the Downtown Akron Partnership (DAP) and METRO for the cleaning, provision of safety patrols, and other services along Main Street and the Robert K. Pfaff (RKP) Transit Center. Mr. Derrig made a motion for approval, second by Mr. Rubino. All those present voted 'yes.'

ASSET PROTECTION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Chuck Rector

Mr. Rector reviewed the Committee's KPIs.

PLANNING / MARKETING / RAIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Donald Christian

Mr. Spring provided the report on behalf of Mr. Christian. Spring asked Ms. Shea to give a brief overview of the Planning KPIs and elaborate on the Resolution being presented to the Board. Mr. Spring reiterated the Public Engagement Policy is an internal policy, not a federal policy.

Resolution 2021-03: A resolution authorizing a one-time exception to METRO's Public Engagement Policy as it relates to the Title VI Analysis of COVID-19 Service Adjustments. Mr. Spring made a motion for approval, second by Ms. Greene. All those voted 'yes' were Mr. DeJournett, Mr. Spring, Mr. Derrig, Ms. Licata, Ms. Greene, Mr. Rubino, Mr. Christian, Ms. Gissendaner, and Mr. Rector. Mr. Prentice voted 'nay.'

Ms. Shea updated the Board on the Akron Secondary Line.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Nicholas Fernandez

Ms. Licata gave the report on behalf of Mr. Fernandez. The financials are in good shape and there are no resolutions.

CHAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Mark Derrig

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

OFFICERS' REPORT

President: Mr. DeJournett has no report.

Chief Executive Officer: Ms. Distler said the team continues to move forward and navigate the pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, Mr. DeJournett made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Rector. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Section III, Article 3.2 of the Rules & Regulations of the METRO Regional Transit Authority, METRO has complied with the Notice and Notification to the public and news media.

DATE APPROVED: January 26, 2021

**ROBERT E. DEJOURNETT,
PRESIDENT**

**DAWN S. DISTLER,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
SECRETARY-TREASURER**