

**METRO RTA
BOARD MINUTES
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARD ROOM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021
9:00 A.M.**

Trustees Present: Robert DeJournett, Gary Spring, Chuck Rector, Vincent Rubino, Donald Christian, Bob Konstand, Mark Derrig, Heather Heslop Licata, David Prentice, Renee Greene

Trustees Absent: Nick Fernandez, Rupa Gurung

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

Guests Present: Helen Carroll, Ron Brubaker, Evan Landman (virtual), Deborah Matz, Bryan Herschel, Dr. Daniel Van Epps (virtual), Stephanie York (virtual)

SWEARING IN OF METRO BOARD OF TRUSTEES BY METRO CEO DAWN DISTLER

Ms. Heslop Licata and Mr. Prentice took an oath of office by Ms. Distler, as outlined in Section 306.33 of the Ohio Revised Code.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. DeJournett called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Ron Brubaker from the TASCforce made comments on a recent Akron Beacon Journal article regarding the Akron Secondary Trail. On behalf of the TASCforce, Mr. Brubaker urged METRO to request permission from the FTA to develop the trail on the METRO-owned property.

Summit County Law Director Deborah Matz spoke to the county's position on the Akron Secondary Trail. Ms. Matz said the county supports the first phase of the trail (the southern portion) but believes it is premature to ask approval from the FTA to move forward on the northern portion (second phase) of the trail proposal.

RECOGNITION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. DeJournett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2021 meeting. Mr. Derrig made a motion for approval, second by Mr. Rector. The minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RESOLUTIONS

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & SERVICE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Mark Derrig

Mr. Derrig reported the committee met on Wednesday, August 18. KPIs were reviewed and are all heading in the right direction.

ASSET PROTECTION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Chuck Rector

Mr. Rector reviewed the KPIs, specifically noting the healthcare provision costs. Mr. Rector said METRO is still looking into different health pools and a decision will be made by the end of the year. The Safety and Protection Department reported zero preventable accidents in the month of June.

PLANNING / MARKETING / RAIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Donald Christian

Mr. Christian reported that the committee met and Ms. Shea gave a comprehensive overview of Reimagine METRO: Transit Service Plan. A resolution is being presented to the Board, but first Mr. Christian deferred to Ms. Shea to give a presentation on Reimagine METRO. Ms. Shea introduced Mr. Evan Landman from Jarret Walker + Associates. Mr. Landman gave a detailed presentation on where METRO is at now with the Strategic Plan process and how we got there. Ms. Shea said the first draft of the network redesign that will be taken out for public comment will be unveiled at the September [Planning, Marketing, and Rail] Committee meeting.

Mr. Spring, who noted he was involved in the beginning planning phases of the Strategic Plan, asked if METRO is still considering linking service with Cleveland RTA and SARTA (Stark County). Ms. Distler said those are two considerations that will be discussed in the next steps of the process during future workshop sessions. Ms. Distler asked Ms. Shea to give the Board an overview of the immediate next step: the outreach process.

Resolution 2021-14: Authorizing the award of a contract for the construction of concrete shelter pads and sidewalks and installation of shelters. Mr. Christian made a motion for approval, second by Ms. Greene. All those present voted 'yes.' Resolution 2021-14 was unanimously approved.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Nicholas Fernandez

Mr. Prentice gave the committee report on behalf of Mr. Fernandez. Mr. Prentice introduced the resolution being presented to the Board.

Resolution 2021-15: Authorizing a one-year extension of the maintenance and support agreement through Ecolane USA. Mr. Prentice made a motion for approval, second by Mr. Christian. All those present voted 'yes.' Resolution 2021-15 was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

OFFICERS' REPORT

President: Mr. DeJournett reminded the Board to submit their comments and feedback regarding the CEO's contract.

Chief Executive Officer: Ms. Distler stated the big things METRO is working on is Reimagine METRO and redesigning the bus network. Ms. Distler said the network redesign is a great first step in investing in the community. In the interest of time, Ms. Distler had no further report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. DeJournett asked for a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of preparing for, conducting, or reviewing collective bargaining strategy. Mr. Christian made a motion to go into Executive Session. Roll call was conducted. The Board entered Executive Session at 9:53 a.m.

Mr. Derrig made a motion to exit Executive Session. Roll call was conducted. The Board exited Executive Session at 10:54 a.m.

Mr. Derrig made a motion to accept the Fact-Finding report, second by Ms. Greene. Mr. Rubino asked for an amendment to the motion to give the Board time to discover more information regarding the details of why the report was rejected by the [TWU] union. Mr. DeJournett stated the motion could not be amended.

Mr. DeJournett conducted a roll call and asked Board members if they accept or reject the Fact-Finding report. Board members who accepted the report were Ms. Greene, Mr. Derrig, Mr. Christian, Ms. Heslop Licata, Mr. Konstand, Mr. Spring, Mr. Rector, and Mr. DeJournett. Mr. Prentice abstained. The Board unanimously accepted the Fact-Finding report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Christian made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Rector.

The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 10:56 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: September 28, 2021

**ROBERT E. DEJOURNETT,
PRESIDENT**

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