

**METRO RTA
BOARD MINUTES
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARD ROOM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021
9:00 AM**

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

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

Guests Present: Wayne Cole (TWU), Helen Carroll, Al Biehl (virtual), David Swirsky (virtual), Ron Brubaker, Dr. Daniel Van Epps (virtual)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. DeJournett called the meeting to order at 9 am. Mr. DeJournett introduced new Board member Mr. John Valle*, an appointee of the City of Akron. Mr. Valle retired from the City of Akron in February [2021] where he served in various positions over 20 years including Akron City Council and the Mayors Cabinet. Mr. Valle said is looking forward to serving on the Board.

(*Note: Mr. Valle has was not officially sworn into the Board; therefore, he did not act as a voting member at the September 28, 2021 meeting.)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ron Brubaker, founder and co-director of TASCForce, provided the Board with an update related to the Veterans Trail. Mr. Brubaker respectfully submitted a request for the Board to allow the right-of-way for the [rail property] to be converted to a multipurpose trail in order to move forward with the trail.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. DeJournett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2021 meeting. Mr. Derrig made a motion for approval, second by Ms. Greene. Abstained by Mr. Valle. The minutes were unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. DeJournett asked for vice president nominations. Mr. Spring made a motion to nominate Mr. Derrig as Vice President of the Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Greene. Abstained by Mr. Derrig and Mr. Valle. Mr. Derrig accepted the nomination.

Mr. DeJournett shared Mr. Rubino and Ms. Greene's interest in serving on the Finance Committee, and Mr. Rubino's interest in serving as committee chair. Motion by Mr. Christian. Second by Mr. Rector. Abstained by Mr. Rubino and Mr. Valle. Mr. DeJournett appointed Mr. Rubino as chair of the Finance Committee.

Mr. DeJournett introduced Resolution 2021-16 and asked Ms. Distler to explain the resolution for consideration. Ms. Distler stated the resolution would allow METRO to retain Roetzel & Andress as its legal counsel for the remainder of 2021 on a month to month basis, as needed. Ms. Distler explained this

resolution provides METRO more time to work on the RFP and iron out concerns addressed in the process. Mr. Konstand requested that the resolution clarifies the use of said legal counsel for all legal services.

Resolution 2021-16: A resolution authorizing the purchase of legal services on a month to month basis. Motion by Mr. Derrig second by Ms. Greene. Abstained by Mr. John Valle. The resolution was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RESOLUTIONS

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & SERVICE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Mark Derrig

Mr. Derrig reported the committee met and reviewed its KPIs. The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding Senator Sherrod Brown's visit. Mr. Derrig asked Ms. Miller to discuss Senator Brown's visit and conversations regarding METRO's demand response services. Gillig provided METRO with a demo electric bus to have on display during the Senator's visit. Mr. Derrig reported six bus operators were hired and started [September 27].

ASSET PROTECTION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Chuck Rector

Mr. Rector provided the Board with an overview of the committee's KPIs. Mr. Rector asked Mr. Hunter to give update on the healthcare provider process. Mr. Hunter stated METRO received 11 interested parties, eight bidders, held four interviews, and selected Medical Mutual of Ohio (MMO) as their healthcare provider. MMO has been the [Ohio Transit Risk] Pool's selection for the last eight years; however, Mr. Hunter said METRO will be partnering with them directly.

PLANNING / MARKETING / RAIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Donald Christian

Mr. Christian asked Mr. Spring to give the committee report. Mr. Spring said the meeting focused on the rerouting of METRO's fixed-route services. The committee met with Jarrett Walker + Associates who went through a detailed presentation on the process and proposal. Mr. Spring asked Ms. Shea to give update on the outreach process. Ms. Shea said at 1:30 pm today at the Main Library, METRO will hold a stakeholder workshop with about 40 stakeholders. A presentation similar to the one given at the committee meeting will be presented, and the group will talk through planning concepts and engage in interactive activities throughout the workshop. A series of outreach events are scheduled over the next month (in October). Ms. Shea said the Board will be provided with those board members who were unable to attend the committee meeting to listen back on the presentation with the proposed rerouting.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair:

Mr. DeJournett stated the committee decided to hold off on the legal services resolution to allow more time for research and discussion. Mr. DeJournett asked Ms. Neeley to review the financials and KPIs.

OFFICERS' REPORT

President: Mr. DeJournett congratulated Mr. Rector on receiving the Ohio Public Transportation Association's (OPTA) Leonard Ronis award at the OPTA conference. He also encourage board members to attend the [Reimagine METRO] stakeholder meeting today at Main Library.

Chief Executive Officer: Ms. Distler stated the draft network redesign is an important first step of the

Strategic Plan. Our next step in the redesign is to collect feedback from stakeholders on the first draft. Ms. Distler stated a network redesign takes months for it to come to the right balance. The main goal of this network redesign is to connect people to where they need to go and give people what they are asking for. Many folks in the community are our transit-loyal passengers who have no other way to get around and depend on public transportation. Ms. Distler also encouraged board members to attend the stakeholder workshop, engage with their peers, and have a hand in the redesign process. Ms. Distler recognizes this plan is not going to please everyone, but feels the proposed service will be a better service as a result of this network redesign. Ms. Distler congratulated Mr. Rector for being recognized with the highest OPTA award: the Leonard Ronis award. Ms. Distler gave a brief background on Leonard Ronis (who the award was named after) – an individual who was instrumental in the first making of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, who was committed to public transportation and committed to the community. METRO nominated Mr. Rector for this award because his career has been about transit in many different ways and he’s always been there for METRO. Ms. Distler also recognized Mr. Hampshire for receiving a 4 Under 40 Award and Mr. Mike Ripplinger, journeyman mechanic and Teamsters Union Steward, with a Milestone Award for 30 years of service. Ms. Distler shared her favorite memory with Mr. Ripplinger when she was a bus operator. METRO received positive feedback from OPTA and conference attendees. City of Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan was a keynote speaker on Friday. Ms. Distler commended the group for their efforts in making attendees feel welcome and helping make the conference a success.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. DeJournett made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing by division (G)(1) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code, and to prepare for, conduct, or review collective bargaining strategy by division (G)(4) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code. Mr. DeJournett asked for METRO CEO and legal counsel join in the second part of the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christian. Roll call was conducted. Mr. Valle abstained. The Board entered Executive Session at 9:30 am.

Mr. Christian made a motion to exit Executive Session. Roll call was conducted. Mr. Valle abstained. The Board exited Executive Session at 11:13 am.

Mr. Derrig made a motion to extend the Chief Executive Officer’s current contract until details of new contract are finalized. Second by Mr. Prentice. Mr. Valle abstained. The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Christian made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Prentice. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

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: October 26, 2021

**ROBERT E. DEJOURNETT,
PRESIDENT**

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