

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

SPECIAL Open Session Minutes- Board of Directors

October 27, 2006

A SPECIAL Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, October 27, 2006 at the Santa Cruz City Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Chair Rotkin called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Jan Beautz
Dene Bustichi
Michelle Hinkle
Kirby Nicol
Mike Keogh
Emily Reilly
Mike Rotkin
Dale Skillicorn
Pat Spence
Mark Stone
Marcela Tavantzis
Ex Officio Wes Scott

DIRECTORS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Ciro Aguirre, Operations Manager
Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager
Mary Ferrick, Base Superintendent
Steve Paulson, Paratransit Administrator

Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager
Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager
Les White, General Manager

EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VOLUNTARILY INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT

John Mellon, VMU
Mike Thomassi, "King of Marijuana"

Amy Weiss, Spanish Interpreter
Bob Yount, MAC

2. **CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO OPERATE THE HOMELESS SHELTER SHUTTLE**

Summary:

Mark Dorfman reported that in the past, METRO has operated the Armory Shuttle providing service to the Homeless Center in transporting individuals to the Armory. When it was established, the tickets that were paid for by the Homeless Shelter covered the cost of operating the shuttle.

METRO ran into difficulty about two years ago because the route was published in Headways, but the Homeless Shelter ran out of funding and could not pay for the service, although METRO had to continue running the shuttle and lost money on the operation. As a result, the method of operating the shuttle service was changed allowing for the service to be stopped if funds are cut.

Currently, the cost to operate the service is anticipated to be approximately \$15,000, which is higher than the Homeless Shelter can fund.

Staff is recommending that the Board authorize Staff to operate the Armory Shuttle this year if the Homeless Center can fully fund the costs associated with the operation, and authorize Staff to make any agreements necessary with the Center to effectuate that operation.

Discussion:

Director Reilly asked if there was any funding resources that could help the Homeless Shelter cover the costs to operate the shuttle. Mr. Dorfman explained that the first step was to determine the Board's position, with that answer, the Homeless Shelter could then go back to the County, as well as their donating local agencies to request funding.

Mr. Dorfman replied affirmatively when Director Beautz asked if going to the County meant going to the Cities as well. Director Rotkin added that it is a county-wide program that the Cities and County need to look at funding because it is very important and without it, people end up sleeping in their cars or on lawns.

Director Nicol suggested that METRO operate the service this year and request that the Homeless Center cover the expenses, and if they don't then the program would be dropped next year.

Chair Rotkin replied that the question now is the Board's position of only operating the service if it is fully funded. Mr. Dorfman added that if there is not enough funding, then METRO would negotiate the service provided according to the amount of funding available. Les White added that the current Headways includes the disclaimer that the route may not run if it is not funded.

Direction: Director Stone requested a report back to the Board regarding the funding status in a timely manner to avoid having to take emergency action on this issue.

Vice Chair Tavantzis reported that the City of Watsonville would not be participating in the funding of this shuttle because the Watsonville homeless shelter is within walking distance of the Watsonville Transit Center.

Mike Thomassi, “King of Marijuana”, urged the Board to take care of poor people.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BEAUTZ SECOND: DIRECTOR SKILLICORN

Authorize Staff to operate the Armory Shuttle this year for the Homeless Center provided that the Homeless Center can fully fund the costs associated with its operation. Staff to report back to the Board regarding the status of the funding in a timely manner to avoid having to take emergency action on this issue

Motion passed unanimously with all Directors present.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Rotkin adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS
Administrative Services Coordinator