

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District was convened on Friday, April 25, 2014 at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Watsonville, California 95076 at 9:00 a.m.

SECTION I: OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bustichi called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

The following Directors were present:

- Director Hilary Bryant
- Director Dene Bustichi
- Director Karina Cervantez
- Director Daniel Dodge
- Director Zach Friend
- Director Ron Graves
- Director Michelle Hinkle
- Director Deborah Lane
- Director John Leopold
- Director Bruce McPherson
- Director Lynn Robinson
- Ex-Officio Director Donna Blitzer

STAFF PRESENT

Leslie R. White, Secretary/General Manager
 Leslyn K. Syren, District Counsel

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

Erron Alvey, Purchasing Manager
 Joan Jeffries, Purchasing Admin
 Angela Aitken, Finance Manager
 Robert Cotter, Maintenance Manager
 Will Regan, President VMU
 Amy Weiss, Interpretation
 Maria Esther Rodrigez

Liseth Guizar, Security & Risk Administrator
 Elmer Torres, Facilities

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Bustichi announced the meeting was broadcasted by Community Television and introduced Amy Weiss as the translator. Ms. Weiss addressed the assembly in Spanish and offered her services to those who need Spanish interpretation.

4. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Bustichi acknowledged a letter sent to the board from Nancy Hardy and a petition regarding Watsonville service. Ms. Syren stated that as the petition was in Spanish and Ms. Liseth Guizar, Security and Risk Administrator, provided oral translation from Spanish to English

5. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

Eduardo Montesino, on behalf of Bus Operators and Paratransit, extended congratulations to the General Manager, Les White, as this was one of his last Board meetings. He extended his thanks to Mr. White for all his years of service.

6. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. White drew attention to the short bio on Carolyn Chaney and her accomplishments that accompanied item 10.

CONSENT AGENDA

7-1. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARY APPROVED CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2014

7-2. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORTS YEAR TO DATE AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2014

7-3. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY ACCESSIBLE SERVICES REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2014

7-4. ACCEPT AND FILE VOTING RESULTS FROM APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7-5. ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT OF ACTIVE GRANTS AND SUBMITTED GRANT PROPOSALS FOR APRIL 2014

7-6. ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE STATUS REPORT FOR APRIL 2014

7-7. ACCEPT AND FILE METRO PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2014

7-8. ACCEPT AND FILE SANTA CRUZ METRO SYSTEM RIDERSHIP REPORT FOR MARCH 2014

7-9. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LOGISTICS INC. FOR INDUSTRIAL WASTE REMOVAL SERVICES AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$64,000

7-10. CONSIDERATION OF REJECTING BIDS FROM ARAMARK UNIFORM & CAREER APPAREL, LLC AND G&K SERVICES, AND AWARD OF CONTRACT WITH UNIFIRST CORPORATION FOR UNIFORMS, FLAT GOODS, AND LAUNDRY SERVICE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$37,000

7-11. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUING A FORMAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL PARATRANSIT SERVICES

7-12. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF SPONSORSHIP TO THE BAND BOOSTERS OF SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL

7-13. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF SANTA CRUZ METRO'S PROCUREMENT POLICY

Director Lane requested to have item 7-12 moved from Consent Agenda which was approved by Chair Bustichi and changed from Consent item 7-12 to regular agenda 8A.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR LANE SECOND: DIRECTOR FRIEND

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED WITH ITEM 7-12 MOVED TO REGULAR AGENDA AND DESIGNATED 8A.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH DIRECTORS BRYANT, LEOPOLD, AND ROBINSON BEING ABSENT.

REGULAR AGENDA

8A. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF SPONSORSHIP TO THE BAND BOOSTERS OF SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL

Director Lane moved the item to publicly thank Mr. White for his generosity.

Public Comment:

None.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR LANE SECOND: DIRECTOR HINKLE

APPROVAL OF SPONSORSHIP TO THE BAND BOOSTERS OF SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH DIRECTORS BRYANT, LEOPOLD, AND ROBINSON BEING ABSENT.

Mr. White reminded the Board that following the meeting, METRO Center Santa Cruz was hosting a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the consolidation of Highway 17, AMTRAK and CalTrain service and the 25th anniversary of Highway 17 service.

8. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS

Director Bustichi presented a longevity award for 10 years of service to Juan Gallegos who in turn came to the podium to thank Santa Cruz METRO and the Board.

Director Bustichi presented a longevity award to Elmer Torrez for his 15 year anniversary. Mr. Torrez expressed his thanks to the Board.

Mr. White stated the third award recipient, Isaac Holly, was not in attendance and he hoped to present the award to Mr. Holly at another date.

Public Comment:

None.

9. APPRECIATION RESOLUTION FOR MARGARITA ALEJO

Mr. White spoke about Margarita Alejo and her contribution and guidance to Santa Cruz METRO her during her time on the Board and recommended approval for her resolution. Ms. Alejo was not present.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR FRIEND SECOND: DIRECTOR HINKLE

Chair Bustichi spoke of Ms. Alejo as a valuable asset to the Board and an advocate for the City of Watsonville, Watsonville Transportation and the needs of county.

Public Comment:

None.

APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION FOR MARGARITA ALEJO.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH DIRECTORS BRYANT, LEOPOLD, AND ROBINSON BEING ABSENT.

10. HONOR RESOLUTION FOR CAROLYN CHANEY

Mr. White expressed his sadness at the loss of Carolyn Chaney. He spoke of the projects she tirelessly worked on with Santa Cruz METRO and that the programs' successes were all a result of Ms. Chaney's contribution. Mr. White stated the system and community as a whole was much better for the service and advocacy she provided. Mr. White introduced Cecile Cirillo, who spoke of her relationship with Ms. Chaney and expressed her sadness at Ms. Chaney's passing. Ms Cirillo stated that there was a scholarship in her name at Allegheny College to students who studied public sector. She thanked the board for considering the resolution.

Director Dodge acknowledged Ms. Chaney's service and spoke to her contributions to Santa Cruz METRO and the community. He stated he felt it was an honor and pleasure to have known her.

Public Comment:

None.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR DODGE SECOND: MCPHERSON

Chair Bustichi acknowledged Ms. Chaney’s service and shared his experience saying she engaged decision makers and their staff in a way that they would not have been possible without her.

APPROVAL OF THE HONOR RESOLUTION FOR CAROLYN CHANEY.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH DIRECTORS BRYANT, LEOPOLD, AND ROBINSON BEING ABSENT.

11. APPRECIATION OF SHIRLEY HARDING

April Warnock, Paratransit Superintendent, referred to an article in the Santa Cruz Sentinel about ParaCruz Customer, Ms. Shirley Harding and how she made baby clothes, blankets, and hats and sends them to needy children in Uganda and Romania. Ms. Warnock asked the Board to approve granting Ms. Harding 20 prepaid coupons to Ms. Harding to acknowledge her work and her positive endorsement of ParaCruz.

Director McPherson shared his association with Ms. Harding and described both her and her work as phenomenal. He stated he was in support of the item.

Public Comment:

None.

ACTION: MOTION: MCPHERSON SECOND: GRAVES

APPROVAL TO PROVIDE MS. SHIRLEY HARDING WITH 20 PREPAID COUPONS.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH DIRECTORS BRYANT, LEOPOLD, AND ROBINSON BEING ABSENT.

12. RECEIVE A STATUS REPORT AND PRESENTATION ON THE WATSONVILLE TRANSIT CENTER RENOVATION

Liseth Guizar, Security and Risk Administrator, addressed the assembly by thanking Mr. White for his service, mentorship and friendship.

Ms. Guizar gave a presentation on the Watsonville Transit Center sharing the creation of the center and its current challenges. Ms. Guizar shared design options resulting from a study by stated B+U, the contracted architectural and engineering firm, and asked for the Board’s guidance.

Director Friend asked for clarification that the plans were not mutually exclusive and requested the cost to research the expansion. Ms Guizar replied that to move forward they had to increase the scope of the contract which would mean an additional \$28K. Mr. White stated that the ask was for a change order of a rounded up \$30K which would enable B+U to increase the scope of services to pursue design of an expanded site and would be able to present to the Board a wider range of options and their challenges.

Director McPherson asked staff if there would be significant increased ridership warranting an expanded option. Mr. White answered in the positive. She stated an assumption was that there will be increased ridership and need for more bus bays.

Director McPherson asked if the \$30K included both options. Mr. White stated that it was for pursuing the expanded site design. Mr. White stated that at a minimum, there had to be reconstruction, but that the \$30K would allow the design group to pursue the expanded site options.

Director Dodge expressed his support for the item and request. He also encouraged staff to look at expanding service as well as the transit center. He said he had engaged the surrounding property owners and they seemed open.

Chair Bustichi asked Director Dodge if the topic had been discussed in a Watsonville City Board meeting. Director Dodge replied there was a presentation given regarding the station but they had not had a public hearing. Ms. Guizar stated she spoke to individuals of the Watsonville Board and they were in favor of the renovation.

Director Lane wanted to make sure that plans included space for a full time Customer Service Representative.

Chair Bustichi asked if pursuing a Tiger Grant for this project meant sacrificing other plans. Mr. White answered that the only projects applicable to a Tiger Grant would be the Pacific Station and Watsonville Station construction. He said both projects would not compete with each other. Director McPherson clarified what a Tiger Grant was. Ms. Guizar stated that it might be possible to do both the Pacific Station & Watsonville Station renovation, showing them as an interrelated project.

Chair Bustichi encouraged further community outreach before making a decision on approval of pursuing an expanded site design. Mr. White agreed that postponement would be a good decision.

Director Cervantez disagreed with a postponement and stated there has been support for downtown revitalization which encouraged interdepartmental collaboration.

Mr. White recommended approval of continued pursuit of redevelopment options including a change order, not to exceed \$30K, to pursue the expanded site option.

Director Graves agreed with Chair Bustichi, stating he felt there should be agreement with the local government and property owners before the Board should make a decision on the \$30K. He suggested that the Board support the presentation as given and ask that the Watsonville City Council hold a meeting with the stakeholders involved before bringing it back to the Board to approve the additional money.

Director McPherson questioned if the postponement would critically affect the project. He encouraged the Board to move forward unanimously on this request.

Director Dodge reiterated his support for this item and encouraged the Board to follow whatever process needs to happen in order to move forward on this agenda item.

Chair Bustichi asked if a 30 day delay was decisive to the project. Ms. Guizar stated the delay would not make or break the project but encouraged the Board to allow them to pursue the designs so as to present a more complete design option to the City Council.

Chair Bustichi suggested approving this item with the condition that the expanded project be approved by the Watsonville City Council.

Director Lane questioned the last paragraph of the Staff Report in regards to the \$30K coming from the Capital Budget. Angela Aitken, Finance Manager, stated the \$30K would be coming from reserves.

Chair Bustichi stated that while in favor of revitalizing Watsonville, he did not support the option to pursue designs that may not be wanted by the community. He stated he wanted to have a public hearing and discussion with the council first to make sure expansion was a viable option before spending resources on pursuing a project that cannot be completed.

Director Dodge expressed his concern that an initial short delay may lead to a longer postponement.

Director Friend put forth a Friendly Amendment to approve the Change Order of up to \$30K on the condition that the Watsonville City Council hold a public meeting and approve the moving forward to expand beyond the existing property into private land.

Public Comment:

Mr. Montesino and Ms. De Leon spoke in favor of the expansion and development of the project.

ACTION: MOTION: CHAIR BUSTICHI SECOND: DIRECTOR GRAVES

APPROVAL OF A CHANGE ORDER REQUEST OF \$30K ON THE CONDITION THAT WATSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING AND APPROVE THE MOVING FORWARD TO EXPAND BEYOND THE EXISTING PROPERTY INTO PRIVATE LAND.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH DIRECTORS BRYANT, LEOPOLD, AND ROBINSON BEING ABSENT.

8. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO PROVIDE TRAVEL FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ALLOW ME (DIRECTOR DANIEL DODGE) TO ACCEPT THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION ENGAGEMENT AND MEMBERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

Director Dodge put forth a request to accept the position of Chair of the committee and approve an addition of \$9K allowing him to travel to the APTA conferences.

Director Friend asked Finance if there was a line item for the Board's travel. Ms. Aitken replied that there was and she would get back to the Board with the amount.

Chair Bustichi stated that although he supported Director Dodge accepting the position of Chair, he could not approve the additional cost of travel.

Director McPherson stated he was not ready to vote on this item.

Director Lane spoke in support and motioned to accept the request.

Public Comment:

None.

ACTION: MOTION: CHAIR BUSTICHI SECOND: DIRECTOR GRAVES

Director Friend requested that a specific budget amount be set and that the Board stay within the parameters.

Ms. Aitken returned to the Board, stating the Board travel was set for \$15,700. Mr. White stated that the amount was set for an estimated value of two members of the Board, the Chair and Vice-Chair, to attend the meetings.

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO PROVIDE TRAVEL FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ALLOW ME (DIRECTOR DANIEL DODGE) TO ACCEPT THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION ENGAGEMENT AND MEMBERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

MOTION DID NOT PASS WITH AYES FROM DIRECTORS CERVANTEZ, DODGE AND LANE AND NAYS FROM DIRECTORS BUSTICHI, FRIEND, GRAVES, HINKLE AND MCPHERSON.

Director Friend made a motion to provide a set number for the travel budget and increase the \$15,700 to \$20K and to stick to that amount.

Director Hinkle seconded the motion.

In deference to the budget, Chair Bustichi offered to not attend any meetings and have Director Dodge go in his stead as opposed to raising the amount.

Director Friend withdrew his motion to increase the budgeted amount.

Ms. Syren informed the Board that according to their bylaws, the Board would need to approve of all of Director Dodge's requested meetings. Director Friend requested staff to amend the bylaws that at the discretion of the Chair and Vice-Chair that other members of the Board can attend a meeting in their stead. Ms. Syren agreed to change the bylaws.

Director Dodge requested clarification on the rejection of the consideration.

Chair Bustichi confirmed that Director Dodge was approved to accept the position of Chair of the American Public Transportation Association Engagement and Membership Subcommittee but that there was no guarantee of funding.

9. REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Syren reviewed the items to be discussed in Closed Session and announced there would be no need to reconvene to Open Session.

10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY MAY 9, 8:30 AM, SANTA CRUZ METRO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, 110 VERNON STREET, SANTA CRUZ

Chair Bustichi announced the next meeting on Friday May 9, 8:30 am, Santa Cruz Metro Administrative Offices, 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:59.

Respectfully submitted by:

Eriko K. Dreyer, Pro-Tem Administrative Services Coordinator