



Minutes- Board of Directors

March 25, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District was held on Friday, March 25, 2011 at the Santa Cruz City Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Chair Pirie called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Hilary Bryant
Dene Bustichi
Daniel Dodge
Ron Graves
Donald Hagen
Michelle Hinkle
John Leopold
William Neighbors
Ellen Pirie
Mark Stone
Lynn Robinson
Ex-Officio Donna Blitzer

DIRECTORS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Angela Aitken, Acting AGM/Finance Manager
Bob Cotter, Maintenance Manager
Frank Cheng, MB Project Manager
Mary Ferrick, Fixed Route Superintendent
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel

Debbie Kinslow, Asst Finance Manager
David Moreau, Asst Paratransit Superintendent
Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager
April Warnock, Paratransit Superintendent
Les White, General Manager

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

John Daugherty, SEA
Manny Martinez, PSA
Eduardo Montesino, UTU
Bonnie Morr, UTU

Will Regan, VMU
Amy Weiss, Spanish Interpreter

2. ORAL ANNOUNCEMENT: SPANISH LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION

Amy Weiss announced that she would be available for Spanish language interpretation during "Oral Communications" and for any other agenda item for which these services are needed

3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

Michael Cotroneo, UTU, presented the base fare structures for other similar transit agencies.

DIRECTOR NEIGHBORS ARRIVED.

5. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6-1. CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS: DENY THE APPLICATION OF MARIO DE LA GARZA TO FILE A LATE "NEW CLAIM", #10-0023; REJECT THE CLAIM OF ALISIA GARCIA, #11-0007; REJECT THE CLAIM OF MICHAEL KOYAMA, #11-0008
- 6-2. ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2011
- 6-3. ACCEPT AND FILE RIDERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2011
- 6-4. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11 AND 25, 2011
- 6-5. ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT OF ACTIVE GRANTS AND SUBMITTED GRANT PROPOSALS FOR MARCH 2011
- 6-6. ACCEPT AND FILE STATUS REPORT OF FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AND CURRENT LEGISLATIVE ISSUES
- 6-7. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING A CLAIM FOR FY12 TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT (TDA) AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT (STA) FUNDS
- 6-8. CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING PROPERTY INSURANCE COVERAGE AND BOILER AND MACHINERY COVERAGE FROM FEBRUARY 14, 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 FOR 1200 B RIVER STREET AND 138 GOLF CLUB DRIVE
- 6-9. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT RENEWALS WITH SANTA CRUZ TRANSPORTATION, LLC AND WATSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION, INC. FOR SUPPLEMENTAL PARATRANSIT SERVICES

6-10. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO SIGN THE NECESSARY CALTRANS MASTER AGREEMENT FOR CALTRANS-ADMINISTERED GRANTS PROGRAMS

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI SECOND: DIRECTOR ROBINSON

Chair Pirie moved item 6-4 (Item 8b), and item 6-9 (Item 8c) to the Regular Agenda

Approve Consent Agenda as amended.

Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS

Maria Granados-Boyce was not able to attend today.

8. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES OF MANNY GARBEZ AS A BUS OPERATOR FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Summary:

Chair Pirie read aloud the Resolution of Appreciation for Manny Garbez, who was not able to attend.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR LEOPOLD SECOND: DIRECTOR GRAVES

Approve Resolution of Appreciation for the services of Manny Garbez as a Bus Operator for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District.

Motion passed unanimously.

8.b APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11 AND 25, 2011 (Item #6-4.4)

Chair Pirie asked that the minutes of February 25 be changed to reflect her comments more accurately, specifically about the direction given by the Board to Angela Aitken. Vice Chair Robinson asked that the minutes of February 11 reflect that she chaired the Board meeting.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROBINSON SECOND: DIRECTOR GRAVES

Approve Minutes of February 11, 2011 as amended.

Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR NEIGHBORS SECOND: DIRECTOR HAGEN

Approve Minutes of February 25, 2011 as amended.

Motion passed with Directors Bryant and Robinson abstaining.

**8.c CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT RENEWALS WITH SANTA CRUZ
TRANSPORTATION, LLC AND WATSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION, INC. FOR
SUPPLEMENTAL PARATRANSIT SERVICES (Item #6.9)**

Director Hagen asked what percentage of ParaCruz rides are handled by private companies. Ciro Aguirre said that it was about 13 percent, and can go up. April Warnock said that it is usually only one or two a day.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR NEIGHBORS SECOND: DIRECTOR HAGEN

Authorize General Manager to execute contract renewals with Santa Cruz Transportation, LLC and Watsonville Transportation, Inc. for Supplemental Paratransit Services.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION OF SERVICE REDUCTION OPTIONS IN EFFORT TO BALANCE THE FY12 AND FY13 BUDGETS

Leslie R. White talked about the issues and options before the Board, saying that staff is looking for direction and guidance from the Board with regard to issues related to service, public comments, and other options. Mr. White gave a brief history of how METRO arrived at its current financial distress. There was a discussion about Transit Development Funds and Federal funding. There was a discussion about the Reserve Accounts.

There was a discussion about service reductions. Ciro Aguirre said that a twelve percent (12%) service reduction could be presented at the next Board meeting. Director Graves asked that a cost analysis be prepared and asked for the Service Planners make a presentation to the Capitola City Council.

The following people made statements regarding service reductions:

Bob Geyer, Bonnie Morr, Erika Hearon, Lisa Quail, Ken Clarkson, Jim Russell, Julie Huff, Susan Bayer, Dr. Joe Eaton, Linda Landers, Michael Cotroneo, Larry Pageler, Lesley Wright, John Daugherty, Dennis Papadopulo, and 5 unidentified speakers.

Director Stone said that he was interested in looking at the Reserves and was concerned about the 30-series routes, and said that frequency should be focused on when planning service reductions. Chair Pirie said that there seemed to be a consensus to retain geographic coverage and reduce frequency of departures. There was a discussion about forming a sub-committee to discuss options.

10. ORAL ANNOUNCEMENT: THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011 AT 9:30 A.M. AT THE SANTA CRUZ METRO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES LOCATED AT 110 VERNON STREET, SANTA CRUZ

11. REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION: District Counsel

Margaret Gallagher stated that the Board of Directors would have a conference with METRO Labor Negotiators Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager; Angela Aitken, Acting Assistant General Manager/Finance Manager, Ciro Aguirre, Operations Manager; and Mary Ferrick, Fixed Route Superintendent. Ms. Gallagher said that the Employee Organizations are the United Transportation Union (UTU), Local 23 (Fixed Route and Paracruz) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 521. Ms. Gallagher said the Board of Directors would have a conference with Legal Counsel regarding the existing litigation of State Farm Insurance (subrogating for Phyllis Dias) versus Santa Cruz METRO, Mario de la Garza versus Santa Cruz METRO, and Consuelo Dimas (guardian ad litem for Salvador Chipres) versus Santa Cruz METRO.

12. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

Bonnie Morr read a letter that said that UTU Local 23 (Fixed Route) has offered to flat line their salaries for the next year. Ms. Morr said there was no interest in opening the Paratransit contract, and that it was inappropriate to do so. A copy is attached to the official minutes.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Chair Pirie adjourned to Closed Session at 11:47 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 12:15 p.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

13. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

Margaret Gallagher stated that there was no reportable action taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Pirie adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



ANTHONY TAPIZ
Administrative Services Coordinator