
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: August 18, 2022, 6:30-9:00pm

Members: Eric Mahler (Chair), Mike Allemang (Treasurer), Jesse Miller (Secretary), Rich Chang, Ryan Hunter, Kathleen Mozak, Susan Pollay, Kyra Sims

Staff: Matt Carpenter, Dina Reed, Forest Yang, Bryan Smith, Rosa-Maria Njuki, Deb Holt

Location: Ann Arbor District Library
Virtual attendance available [via Zoom](#)
Passcode: 983308

Chair Eric Mahler called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Agenda Item
1. OPENING ITEMS
1.1 Approve Agenda
Ms. Pollay moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Chang.
All in favor of the accepted agenda:
Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (attending virtually)
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Chairman Eric Mahler: Yes
The vote passed unanimously.
<i>*Ms. Sims arrived at 6:31 pm*</i>
1.2 Public Comment
Jim Mogensen congratulated the board on the successful millage passage. He discussed fare reductions and how they impact different ridership groups and concluded that over the course of the millage, riders will want to see visible capital improvement projects.
Robert Pawlowski expressed his congratulations on the millage passing, commended the public for their involvement in voting and thanked those that worked on promoting the millage.
<i>*Mr. Hunter arrived at 6:36pm*</i>

1.3 General Announcements

Mr. Carpenter announced to the Board that Deputy CEO of Operations, Bryan Smith, had accepted a position as the CEO for the transit authority in LaFayette, Indiana and will be beginning his new position in mid-September. He expressed his gratitude for the hard work and dedication from Mr. Smith in his service since 2016.

Board members wished Mr. Smith well in his future position and took turns thanking him for his leadership during the pandemic and let him know he will be missed in the organization. Mr. Smith, in turn, thanked the Board and CEO for the opportunity to serve at TheRide.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Board Meeting Minutes July 21, 2022

2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries

2.3 Revised FY23 Board Meeting Dates

Mr. Hunter motioned to approve Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Mozak.

All in favor of the accepted agenda:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (attending virtually)

Mr. Rich Chang: Yes

Mr. Ryan Hunter: Yes

Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes

Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes

Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes

Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes

Chairman Eric Mahler: Yes

The Consent Agenda was accepted as presented.

3. POLICY MONITORING & DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Millage Recap

Mr. Mahler expressed his thanks to the millage ballot committee members on the board – Mike Allemang, Jesse Miller and Susan Pollay – for their work over the summer. He reminded the board that the work isn't done with the millage passing and he reminded them that voters will want to see evidence of service enhancements and growth over the next few years.

3.2 Monitoring Improvements

Mr. Allemang provided the board with an update from the Monitoring Improvement Taskforce. With Mr. Hess resigning from his position on the board, his spot on the taskforce has been filled by Ms. Sims. The taskforce is continuing to make progress with improving policy evaluations but currently are still not ready to implement for board use.

3.3 2.2 Treatment of Staff

Mr. Carpenter shared several highlights from the monitoring report – even with an increase of staff survey engagement, results were much the same as they had been last year.

Mr. Carpenter noted that key areas of improvement included more staff feedback, training opportunities, and that Policy Governance coach Rose Mercier had provided recommendations for improving the report.

A robust Board discussion with Mr. Carpenter weighed the benefits of a more detailed survey, using 50% positive survey rating as a threshold of measurement for compliance and how subjectivity and individual perspective impacts survey results and data gathering.

Mr. Miller put forth a motion to accept the report as B in compliance with items noted and with 2.2.1.1 noted as partially compliant. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion.

All in favor of the accepting the report as B in compliance with items noted and with 2.2.1.1 noted as partially compliant:

Mr. Mike Allemang: No (attending virtually)
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Ryan Hunter: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Kathleen Mozak: No
Ms. Susan Pollay: No
Ms. Kyra Sims: No
Chairman Eric Mahler: No

Motion failed.

Ms. Sims put for another motion to accept the report as A in compliance. Ms. Mozak seconded the motion.

All in favor of the accepting the report as A in compliance:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (attending virtually)
Mr. Rich Chang: No
Mr. Ryan Hunter: No
Mr. Jesse Miller: No
Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairman Eric Mahler: No

Motion failed.

Mr. Miller put forth a third motion to accept the report as B compliant except for items noted and 2.2.1.1 which cannot be determined. Ms. Mozak seconded the motion.

All in favor of the accepting the report as B in compliance:

Mr. Mike Allemang: No (attending virtually)
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Ryan Hunter: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes

Ms. Kathleen Mozak: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Kyra Sims: No
Chairman Eric Mahler: Yes

Motion passed to accept the report as B compliant except for items noted and 2.2.1.1 which cannot be determined.

3.4 Q3 Service Report

Mr. Smith provided the board with an overview of the Q3 Service Report with a note that ridership has remained stable and will increase when students return to school. Return to full service is expected to be implemented by September and he thanked operators, mechanics and staff who have made that possible.

Ms. Sims asked for insight into the increase in complaints to which Mr. Smith noted were most likely attributed to the decrease in some services. Mr. Smith also noted in response to questions from Mr. Miller that flex ride services had decreased with the reimplementation of several routes.

3.5 Q5 Financial Report

Ms. Reed provided the board with an overview of the Q3 Financial Report. The expenses are trending favorably, revenue is trending unfavorably – however, this is still following on trend for the overall budget. Ridership is still lower, yet expenses are also still lower which creates a net balance. She also mentioned that the investment strategy employed earlier this year was paying off which the ability to now invest utilizing better interest rates.

4. STRATEGY & OPERATIONAL UPDATES

4.1 Propulsion Timeline

Mr. Carpenter provided the board with an overview of the process for discussing alternative propulsion and the impact on the capital budget. He shared that a fully prepared report will be ready for discussion in October with any potential decisions targeted for next spring as they would require a revision to the budget. He also shared the importance of staff input was a necessary component to any decisions made.

4.2 Preliminary Budget Presentation

Ms. Reed presented to the board the FY23 [draft budget](#) (pg. 111). In her presentation she provided a general budget introduction and timeline and an overview of the process involved in finishing the budget which will be presented in September.

During her presentation she answered questions from Mr. Mahler regarding estimating fuel charges with fluctuating fuel prices and how in general, increased labor costs have been carefully factored into expense planning. She also responded to Mr. Miller's question regarding the timeline for YTC expansion – it is dependent upon supply chain issues and staff recruitment.

Mr. Mahler asked if there were plans to redirect surplus to reserves and Ms. Reed responded that an option for those surplus funds would be to move them forward to fund the long range plan.

Ms. Reed also noted in her presentation that alternative propulsion is labeled as a placeholder within the budget as no decisions have been made yet. She and Mr. Carpenter also provided more details for board members pertaining to competitive grants for capital projects.

Ms. Pollay asked for clarification on garage expansion projects and utilization of revenue bonds as a funding option– Mr. Carpenter responded that site assessments were being made and revenue bonds were a limited option and not under consideration at this time.

4.1.1 Public Hearing Regarding Budget

Ms. Pollay motioned to suspend the regular board meeting and move to open the public hearing. Ms. Sims seconded that motion.

Robert Pawlowski shared he had attended recent budget public meetings and that along with attracting staff with competitive wages, he suggested focusing on campaigning to increase public ridership. He also suggested exploring more state funding to offset the cost of rising fuel costs.

Jim Mogensen shared that he feels YTC staffing needs to be incorporated into regularly budgeted staffing. He also agreed that the surplus should be focused on the planning and development of the YTC. He thanked the board for their ongoing work,

Mr. Chang motioned to close the public hearing and resume the board meeting. Mr. Miller seconded that motion.

Board members thanked Ms. Reed for her presentation and look forward to the final budget being shared at the September board meeting.

4.3 CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter shared highlights from his report, first noting to the board that the board's approved fare changes had been put into effect in August – the changes were to have been made earlier in the year but had been delayed.

5. EMERGENT ITEMS

No emergent items were noted.

6. CLOSING ITEMS

6.1 Topics for Next Meetings

- 2.9 External Relationships
- 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
- 2.5.11 Fare Policy
- Budget Presentation

6.2 Public Comment

Robert Pawlowski thanked Mr. Carpenter for his work on the propulsion study and he looks forward to when it is released. He looks forward to the changes to the fare structure as they will be beneficial for the community. He also wished Mr. Smith well in his new CEO position in Indiana.

Jim Mogensen also thanked Mr. Smith for his time at AAATA, He requested that the budget presentation be made available online for viewing along with service agreements with the University of Michigan and AirRide.

6.3 Adjournment

Ms. Mozak motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Miller.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt