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## Board of Director's Retreat Minutes

**Meeting Date/Time:** October 25, 2022, 12:30 – 4:30pm

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

**Location:** Ann Arbor District Library  
Virtual attendance available via Zoom

Chairperson Mozak called the meeting to order at 12:46pm (delay due to technical difficulties)

| Agenda Item   |
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| <b>1. OPENING ITEMS</b>   |
| <b>1.1 Approve Agenda</b>   |
| Ms. Sims moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Barr.   |
| All in favor of the accepted agenda:  |
| Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes (Attending virtually)  |
| Mr. Chris Allen: Yes  |
| Mr. Simi Barr: Yes  |
| Mr. Rich Chang: Yes   |
| Mr. Ryan Hunter: Yes  |
| Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes   |
| Mr. Eric Mahler: Yes  |
| Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes   |
| Ms. Kyra Sims   |
| Chairperson Kathleen Mozak: Yes   |
| The vote passed unanimously.  |
| <b>1.2 Public Comment</b>   |
| Robert Pawlowski shared that he is interested in learning more about the Propulsion Study beyond the retreat and public engagement opportunities in November. He encouraged the CEO and staff to continue to find ways to involve the public in the discussion. |
| Jim Mogensen shared the changes he has noted in the past two decades of attending AAATA meetings. He expressed concerns over the Policy Governance board model as it relates to how the Board will make decisions on major initiatives.                         |

### **1.3 General Announcements**

Ms. Mozak welcomed Mr. Chris Allen to the Board – the retreat is his first meeting of attendance since being appointed by the City of Ann Arbor.

## **2. PROPULSION: MOVING US FORWARD**

### **2.1 Intro and Process Overview**

Mr. Carpenter provided a brief overview ([pg.16](#)) of the two topics of discussion for the Board Retreat: Propulsion and Legislative Agenda.

### **2.2 Summary of Background Report**

Mr. Carpenter introduced David Verbich from Stantec Consulting to present the Alternative Bus Propulsion Study ([pg. 40](#)). The presentation included the ZEB (Zero-emission buses) project overview, context/background, benefits/cost, risk and challenges, technological overview, financial evaluation, conclusion, and next steps for consideration.

### **2.3 Observations from CEO**

Mr. Carpenter shared with the board considerations when making high risk decisions related to implementing new technology. He noted that if the board feels they don't have enough information to make an informed decision by 2023, the timeline can be moved to 2024.

### **2.4 Q/A for Board Members & Discussion**

Mr. Verbich and several Stantec staff members fielded board questions in response to the presentation and the review of the [Alternative Propulsion Bus Study Report](#). The board concluded that the alternative propulsion conversation would continue to be thoroughly explored in the upcoming months.

### **2.5 Wrap Up and Next Steps**

Mr. Carpenter thanked Mr. Verbich and the Stantec staff who participated. He shared that there would be upcoming opportunities for public presentations and additional engagement.

## **3. LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: FOCUSED ON OUTCOMES**

### **3.1 Advocacy: Why, What, and How**

Mr. Carpenter shared that the board had expressed a strong desire to improve and build local relationships and focus on advocacy. He introduced Mr. Doug Tisdale (APTA Chair, Denver RTA board member and former Cherry Hills, CO Mayor).

Mr. Tisdale provided the board with a verbal presentation based on a local advocacy program he created. He works with business members, boards, and elected officials and provided insight for strategically building and maintaining relationships.

### **3.2 Advocating at the Local Level & Q/A**

Board members engaged in discussion with Mr. Tisdale about various points he had made during his presentation. Conversations centered around best practices with engaging and developing relationships with public stakeholders.

### **3.3 Exercise: Board Member Suggestions (Goals & Tactics)**

Mr. Carpenter had board members individually create a list of 3 areas of advocacy that the board should be focusing on. Members were then given an opportunity to share and discuss in a guided discussion.

### **3.4 Wrap up and Next Steps**

Mr. Carpenter reiterated discussion topics that had been explored during the retreat and shared that he felt the board had provided excellent insight into the direction they want to take the organization.

## **4. EMERGENT ITEMS**

No emergent items noted.

## **5. CLOSING ITEMS**

### **5.1 Public Comment**

Mr. Mogensen shared his thoughts on the various legal and moral owners for the organization that encompass a vast area. He encouraged continuing to listen to public input as it provides valuable information from riders in the community.

Mr. Pawlowski shared his thoughts on the propulsion study and the need to be leaders in climate change solutions yet understanding that a reduced carbon footprint is more than just zero-emission buses. He encouraged strong public engagement regarding the propulsion study.

### **5.2 Adjournment**

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt