

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: June 22, 2023 - 6:30 – 9:00pm

Members: Kathleen Mozak (Chair), Mike Allemang (Treasurer), Jesse Miller (Secretary), Chris Allen, Simi Barr, Rich Chang, Elisabeth Gerber, Susan Pollay, Kyra Sims

Location: Ann Arbor District Library (4th Floor)
Virtual attendance available via Zoom

Chairwoman Mozak called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Agenda Item
1. OPENING ITEMS
1.1 Approve Agenda
Dr. Gerber motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Barr
All in favor of approving the agenda:
Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Dr. Elisabeth Gerber: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Ms. Monica Ross-Williams
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes
The approval of the agenda passed unanimously.
1.2 Public Comment
Mr. Jim Mogensen spoke on 5311 Federal Program and service in Ypsilanti with Air Ride since the pandemic. He encouraged the organization to consider partnerships to bring about equitable transportation within the community.
1.3 General Announcements
Chairwoman Mozak shared that the City of Ann Arbor is forming a focus group for the Speed Management Program and is need of board volunteers to participate. Interested members can contact her directly for more information. Mr. Brooks would be standing in at the meeting on behalf of Mr. Carpenter who is out of town.
1.4 Juneteenth Proclamation
Chairwoman Mozak read a proclamation from the Board in support of the recognition and celebration of Juneteenth. Prior Board Chair, Eric Mahler, had originally authored the proclamation in 2022.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Board Meeting Minutes May 18, 2023

2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries

Mr. Allemang motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Barr.

All in favor of approving the Consent Agenda:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Dr. Elisabeth Gerber: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The approval of the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

3. SPECIAL ITEMS

No special items noted.

4. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

4.1 Ownership Linkage Task Force Updates

Mr. Chang provided an update on the work of the Ownership Linkage Task Force. He is currently working with the City of Ann Arbor Mayor's office to schedule a meeting with the Mayor.

5. MONITORING

5.1 Monitoring Task Force Update

Mr. Allemang shared that the Monitoring Task Force had met in June and discussed reviewing / merging Financial Planning and Budgeting (Policy 2.4) and Emergency CEO Succession. The task force will meet again in July to finalize a suggestion / proposal for Board consideration.

5.2 Governance Process Policies (3.0-3.4)

Chairwoman Mozak provided an overview of the survey results from their self-monitoring for Governance Process Policies (3.0-3.4). Overall, board members responded positively to the work they are doing.

5.3 Financial Conditions (2.5)

Chairwoman Mozak noted that due to policy wording questions, the board would first review and discuss the monitoring report as presented. There had been redundancies in both the reports with policies 2.5.3 and 2.7.2 and she recommended discussing that separately after the reviews of the reports.

Ms. Reed presented the Board with an outline of the Financial Conditions (Policy 2.5) monitoring report, highlighting there were several policies that had come under discussion

by the Finance Committee during their review of the report. The committee had determined they were unable to make a Board recommendation for a level of acceptance at that time and Ms. Reed had made the necessary updates (noted in red) to provide clearer information and evidence for the policy. The Board discussed the noted updates and Ms. Reed provided further clarification regarding cost overruns on capital projects and specifically an expenditure table for Policy 2.5.5.1 which many felt didn't adequately demonstrate compliance.

Mr. Allemang motioned to accept the monitoring report as (C) with all policy items accepted except for 2.5.5.1 – the interpretation is reasonable, but the evidence does not demonstrate compliance. Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Financial Conditions (Policy 2.5) monitoring report as (C):

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Dr. Elisabeth Gerber : Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the Financial Conditions (Policy 2.5) monitoring report as (C) with all policy items accepted except for 2.5.5.1 – the interpretation is reasonable, but the evidence does not demonstrate compliance, was passed unanimously.

The Board requested Ms. Reed provide a revised table with more detailed evidence showing compliance for 2.5.5.1 as a follow-up for the July Board meeting.

5.4 Asset Protection (2.7)

Ms. Njuki presented the Board with an overview of the Asset Protection (Policy 2.7) monitoring report and noted that policies 2.7.2 and 2.7.2.1 had not had evidence provided as they were redundant to policy 2.5.3.

Board members deliberated on the reasonableness of provided evidence as it related to the internal reviews of documents. Several Board members discussed if there was ever a need for an independent audit of the information provided.

Chairwoman Mozak motioned to accept the monitoring report as (C) with all policy items accepted except for Policies 2.7.2 and 2.7.2.1 – the interpretation is not reasonable. Mr. Chang seconded the motion.

All in favor of accepting the Asset Protection (Policy 2.7) policy as (C):

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Dr. Elisabeth Gerber: No
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept Asset Protection (Policy 2.7) monitoring report as (C) with all policy items accepted except for Policies 2.7.2 and 2.7.2.1 – the interpretation is not reasonable, passed by a vote of 8 (yes) and 1 (no).

The Board requested Mr. Carpenter will provide evidence for policies 2.7.2 and 2.7.2.1 at the July Finance Committee meeting.

6. POLICY

6.1 Policy Development: Review of 2.1

Mr. Miller shared that the Service Committee had met and reviewed Policy 2.1 at their May meeting. They discussed the inclusion of “Bus stop” into the policy or if there was a broader term to use, along with the removal of 2.1.4 and 2.1.2 as those policies are covered under other policies.

It was determined that for the July Board meeting, staff will provide an issue brief including current policy wording alongside proposed language revisions for the Board to consider and vote upon.

6.2 Policy Development: Sustainability Policy

Mr. Barr introduced the Board to proposed policy development plans that he, Ms. Pollay and Dr. Gerber feel would better address environmental sustainability. The group provided an overview of a plan to focus on a priority of carbon neutrality. Dr. Gerber shared that the group’s goal was to develop a policy that enhanced the organization’s commitment to sustainability, not elevate it above other commitments. The group has not yet discussed sustainability metrics, they welcomed board input and plan to utilize that input and continue the discussion at the next Board meeting.

7. BOARD EDUCATION/DISCUSSION

No Board education / discussion noted.

8. OPERATIONAL UPDATES

8.1 Q2 Service Report

Mr. Brooks shared the Q2 Service Report with the Board. Ridership is above 70% of pre-pandemic ridership along with an increase in senior trips and van rides. He noted that Mr. Miller had requested the inclusion of ride turndowns in the report data and the information had been incorporated. Turndown rates are being studied/addressed with the goal of reducing them by the next quarterly report.

8.2 CEO Report

Mr. Brooks shared an overview of the monthly CEO report highlighting the recent Juneteenth celebration for staff and commitment to community awareness with the annual holiday. The Ypsilanti Transit Center call-taker upgrades is nearing completing. Discussions about an increase in police presence have taken place with area police departments and ride-alongs with staff have recently been implemented to better improve service and customer experiences. He also shared that a decision regarding propulsion is still ongoing, and several on-site visits have recently been made to other transit facilities. Impacts of Nova Bus’s reduced production in the US will be shared once more information is formally released.

9. EMERGENT ITEMS

No emergent items noted.

10. CLOSING ITEMS

10.1 Action Item Recap

Ms. Reed will be providing a revised table for 2.5.5.1 at the July Board meeting. Mr. Carpenter will be reviewing and providing further evidence for 2.7.2 and 2.7.2.1 at the July Finance Committee Meeting and will be discussed at the Governance Committee Meeting. An issue brief for 2.1 with original policy and suggested policy revisions will be provided at the July Board meeting.

10.2 Topics for Next Meeting

Treatment of Staff (2.2)
Policies 2.7.2 and 2.7.2.1 Review
Sustainability Policy

10.3 Public Comment

Mr. Robert Pawlowski spoke of his work on the RTA Systems Advisory Committee and requested board or staff representation to better provide updates and information on the agency. He will provide additional information if anyone is interested in contacting him.

Mr. Jim Mogensen requested an updated policy manual to better follow discussions related to policy monitoring. He also asked the board to consider the impacts of road work around the community for transit riders. He also noted that there are several bus stops that are in protected bike lanes and may need to be redesigned.

10.4 Adjournment

Ms. Pollay motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Gerber.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Chris Allen: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Dr. Elisabeth Gerber: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Susan Pollay: Yes
Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

Chairwoman Mozak adjourned the meeting at 8:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah Holt

AAATA Juneteenth Proclamation

WHEREAS, the President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring the slaves in Confederate territory free, paving the way for the passing of the 13th Amendment which formally abolished slavery in the United States of America; and

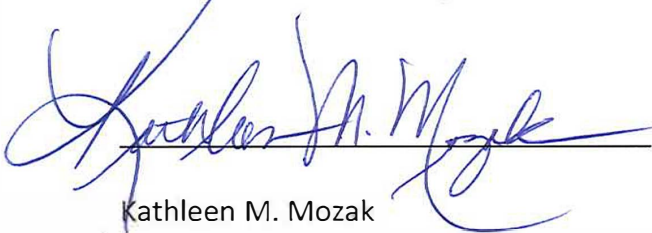
WHEREAS, the Civil War ended with the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865; and

WHEREAS, this news reached Texas when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston Bay with Union troops. It was on June 19, 1865, that he announced: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans, and is called "JUNETEENTH" combine the words June and Nineteenth, and has been celebrated by the African American community for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS, on a larger scale, celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity which are at the core of the American Dream;

IT IS PROCLAIMED, that AAATA Board and staff recognizes and commemorates the celebration of Juneteenth and encourages customers and staff to join in celebration and solidarity during the Month of June and raise awareness of the significance of this celebration in American History and in the heritage of our nation and community.



Kathleen M. Mozak

June 22, 2023



Jesse Miller, Secretary

June 22, 2023