

Board of Director’s Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: February 20, 2025 - 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Location: Ann Arbor District Library (4th Floor)

Virtual attendance available via Zoom

Members Present: Kathleen Mozak (Chair), Mike Allemang (Treasurer), Jesse Miller (Secretary), Simi Barr, Rich Chang, Kyra Sims

Members Absent: Chris Allen (Excused), Julie Grand (Excused), Susan Pollay (Excused)

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

| Agenda Item |
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| 1. OPENING ITEMS |
| <p>1.1 Approve Agenda</p> <p>No additions or changes noted to the agenda.</p> <p>Mr. Chang motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Allemang.</p> <p>No discussion on the motion.</p> <p>All in favor of approving the agenda:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes Mr. Simi Barr: Yes Mr. Rich Chang: Yes Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes</p> <p>The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously</p> <p>1.2 Public Comment</p> <p>No public commenters.</p> <p>1.3 General Announcements</p> <p>It was announced that Mr. Miller will be stepping down as Chair of the Service Committee due to other commitments but will continue to work on the Board. It was announced that Simi Barr would run the next Service Committee meeting. A new chair has not been named as of yet.</p> |
| 2. CONSENT AGENDA |
| <p>2.1 Board Meeting Minutes January 23, 2025</p> <p>2.2 Committee Meeting Summaries</p> |

Chairwoman Mozak noted an amendment to the Consent Agenda – the January 23, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes noted that Mr. Allemang was present on the 1st page of the Minutes, when he had been absent from the meeting.

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

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the amended Consent Agenda:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the amended Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

Staff will update the January Board minutes, accordingly.

3. EMERGENT ITEMS

3.1 Audit Presentation and Vote to Receive

Ms. Reed introduced Ms. Pam Hill and Mr. Christopher Gilbert – auditors from Plante Moran. They presented an overview of the recent completion of the annual audit. The organization operated within budget for the fiscal year 2024 with a 3.3% variance from the operating budget. Assets and net position improved due to additional funds from the millage starting in the summer of 2024. Plante Moran confirmed a clean audit with no findings related to internal controls or federal compliance.

Overall, the organization has a strong financial position with no long-term debt and 100% funded retiree health. The audit team expressed their appreciation for the cooperation and communication from staff.

Chairwoman Mozak noted the Board did not need to motion to approve the audit report, rather they needed to motion that they had received the report.

Mr. Miller motioned to receive the audit report, seconded by Ms. Sims.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of receiving the audit report:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to receive the audit report passed unanimously.

4. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

4.1 Ownership Linkage Task Force Updates

Mr. Chang provided an update on OLTF outreach – a rescheduled meeting with the City of Ypsilanti will be taking place in March. He also noted the ongoing efforts of Ypsilanti Township finding a new representative for the Board.

5. MONITORING

5.1 Board Management Delegation (4.0-4.4)

Chairwoman Mozak briefly provided an overview of the policies for Board management Delegation (4.0-4.4) which is a Board self-monitored review. She noted several comments within the survey related to reasonableness which has been discussed at committee levels. The Governance Committee has met with the Governance consultant to discuss training materials and potential policy changes which will be brought to the Board at a future date. The Board did not vote on the report as it was self-monitored and there was no further discussion.

6. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Policy Language Discussion (if needed)

Board members had no discussion on policy language for Board Management Delegation (4.0-4.4).

6.2 Policy Language Recommendation (2.1.2 & 2.1.3.1)

Mr. Miller shared that the Service Committee had been tasked with reviewing two potentially redundant policies (2.1.2 and 2.1.3.1). They determined the best route was to revise the language within policy 2.1.2 and remove policy 2.1.3.1.

Revised 2.1.2:

Operate without providing effective, comprehensible, accessible, and timely information ***with respect to services offered and safe, respectful conduct.***

Mr. Miller motioned to accept the proposed revised language for policy 2.1.2 and remove 2.1.3.1 seconded by Mr. Barr.

No discussion on the motion.

All in favor of accepting the proposed revised language for policy 2.1.2, and remove 2.1.3.1:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to accept the proposed revised language for policy 2.1.3 passed unanimously.

The Board Policy Manual will be updated to reflect the revision.

6.3 Board Annual Plan of Work

Board members reviewed the Annual Plan of Work which includes topics like ridership trends, funding, sustainability, and the importance in understanding local geographic trends compared to national trends. The Board noted the continued need for advocacy at the state and federal levels to address/monitor potential funding changes. They also agreed to keep the plan flexible and open to adjustments as needed

Policy Topics / Decisions

Ends Review
Sustainability
Determining Reasonableness
Ownership Value / Affordability & Property Taxes

Education Topics

Funding (Federal, State, Local / POSA's)
Ridership / Coverage (Title VI, Equity)
Post Pandemic Ridership Trends
UM2050
Land Use
AI

7. BOARD EDUCATION / DISCUSSION

7.1 Innovation and Trends

Mr. Carpenter provided an annual update on innovations and trends which impact the organization ([February 20, 2025, AAATA Board of Director's Meeting packet, page 40](#)). He outlined ridership growth and challenges, the impact of demographic changes, land development, and organizational technology. He also highlighted the importance of understanding local trends and the need for continuous improvement.

Mr. Carpenter fielded questions from Board members pertaining to ridership growth, and new services and technologies to enhance operations.

8. OPERATIONAL UPDATES

8.1 FY25 Q1 Financial Report

Ms. Reed provided a financial update for FY25 Q2, noting that revenues and expenses are trending as expected. No reserve funds were used during the first quarter and operating reserves are slightly above target. She also shared that several investments were called or matured and were reinvested at higher interest rates.

Mr. Allemang added that the organization continues to show solid financial performance, and the new millage is providing a positive impact for operations and services.

8.2 CEO Report

Mr. Carpenter shared that the Planning Department will be hosting a BRT exchange in the coming year with two communities that have built Bus Rapid Transit. February 4th was Transit Equity Day and TheRide celebrated by placing bus cards on each bus honoring Ms. Rosa Parks which received positive community feedback.

8.3 Legislative Updates

Mr. Carpenter provided a summary of recent executive orders and potential impacts related to DEI, immigration and the administrations position on sanctuary cities. The organization relies on federal funds for capital projects and there may be challenges in receiving that funding due to the new administration's stance on climate action and discretionary grants.

There are ongoing efforts to get the Low-No grant obligated despite the current funding freeze. Recent federal employee layoffs at the FTA will also potentially delay processing paperwork. Mr. Carpenter also shared the potential impact of trade tariffs and the supply chain. Staff will continue to monitor the situation and learn from agency peers. Updates will continue to be provided each month to the Board.

9. CLOSING ITEMS

9.1 Action Item Recap

- Update policy manual with changes to policies 2.1.2 and removal of 2.1.3.1

9.2 Topics for Next Meeting

FY25 Q1 Service Report
Global Executive Limitations (2.0)
Financial Conditions & Activities (2.5)
Cash & Investments (2.6)

Future:
Determining Reasonableness
Ridership and Coverage

9.3 Public Comment

No Public Commenters.

9.4 Adjournment

Mr. Barr motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Chang.

There was no discussion on the motion.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting:

Mr. Mike Allemang: Yes
Mr. Simi Barr: Yes
Mr. Rich Chang: Yes
Mr. Jesse Miller: Yes
Ms. Kyra Sims: Yes
Chairwoman Kathleen Mozak: Yes

The motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Mozak adjourned the meeting at 8:29pm.