



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

June 13, 2014

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District was convened on Friday, June 13, 2014 at the Santa Cruz METRO Administrative Offices, located at 110 Vernon Street, in Santa Cruz, California.

SECTION I: OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

The following Directors were present:

- Director Hilary Bryant
- Director Dene Bustichi
- Director Karina Cervantez
- Director Daniel Dodge
- Director Zach Friend
- Director Ron Graves
- Director Michelle Hinkle
- Director Deborah Lane
- Director John Leopold
- Director Bruce McPherson
- Director Lynn Robinson
- Ex-Officio Director Donna Blitzer

STAFF PRESENT

Alex Clifford, CEO
Leslyn K. Syren, District Counsel

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

Angela Aitken, Santa Cruz METRO
Veronica Elsea
Len Burns
Joseph Martinez
Thomas Hiltner, Santa Cruz METRO
Liseth Guizar, Santa Cruz METRO
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz METRO
Carolyn Derwing, SEA

April Warnock, ParaCruz

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Bustichi announced that the Closed Session would be moved to follow the Consent Agenda.

4. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Veronica Elsea and Len Burns addressed the Board and public. They expressed concern over the ADA compliance with the Ticket Vending Machine (TVM's). Mr. Burns requested that Mr. Clifford create a timetable for resolving the issue.

Director Dodge arrived at 8:42 a.m.

Mr. Clifford stated Santa Cruz METRO has been assured that the TVM's were compliant. Chair Bustichi also acknowledged the machines were ADA Compliant and that METRO takes strides to be ADA friendly as well.

5. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

Eduardo Montesino said he had been hearing requests from passengers about extending holiday service such as the 4th of July and Christmas. He inquired if the Board would consider providing Fixed Rout service on holidays.

6. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Clifford brought attention to handouts of the outline of his oral presentation, Item 15, for which copies were also available to the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

7-1. ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2014

7-2. MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORTS YEAR TO DATE AS OF MARCH 31, 2014

7-3. APPROVE MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

- i. Meeting of March 20, 2014
- ii. Meeting of May 23, 2014

7-4. CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTING DONATION OF KONICA MINOLTA BIZHUB 750 COPIER FROM CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT AUTHORITY IN CONCORD, CALIFORNIA

7-5. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT WITH MSF&W CONSULTING, INC. FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES TO ASSESS AND MONITOR SANTA CRUZ METRO'S WEBSITE FOR ADA COMPLIANCE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000

7-6. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT WITH BIOMAAS, INC. FOR BIOLOGICAL MONITORING SERVICES FOR OUTFALL CONSTRUCTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000

7-7. CONSIDERATION OF RATIFICATION OF THE ACTIONS OF THE MAINTENANCE MANAGER AND AUTHORIZATION OF A PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,989 TO COASTWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

7-8. RENEWAL OF LIABILITY AND VEHICLE PHYSICAL DAMAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE WITH CALTIP FOR FY15

Director Dodge requested further information on Item 7-4. Mr. Clifford and Erron Alvey responded that the donated machine was younger model, had increased functionality, and would be good for approximately 5 years.

Public Comment

None.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR BUSTICHI SECOND: DIRECTOR GRAVES

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH DIRECTORS CERVANTEZ AND MCPHERSON BEING ABSENT.

Closed Session was moved to follow the Consent Agenda which subsequently moved Item 16.

16. REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Leslyn Syren, District Counsel, announced the items to be discussed in closed session.

Adjourned to Closed Session at 9:14 a.m.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Representative: Robyn Slater, HR Manager

Employee Organizations: UTU Local 23 (Fixed Route and ParaCruz) and SEIU Local 521

2. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE

(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957)

Agency Negotiator: Leslyn K. Syren, District Counsel

**3. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code section 54956.8) –
PROPERTY: 333 FRONT STREET**

Agency Negotiators: Leslyn K. Syren, District Counsel

Alex Clifford, CEO/General Manager

Negotiating Party: NIAC (owners)

Under Negotiation: Price/Terms

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Reconvened to Open Session at 9:40 a.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

In consideration of time, Items 10, 11 and 12 were presented before Item 8.

10. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF ERNESTINA SALDANA TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) FOR A TERM OF OFFICE ENDING JUNE 12, 2016

Director Graves presented the nomination of appointment of Ms. Saldana. Director Graves and Director Lane supported the nomination and thanked her for her contributions.

Public Comment

None.

ACTION: MOTION: LEOPOLD SECOND: LANE

ERNESTINA SALDANA APPOINTED TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) FOR A TERM OF OFFICE ENDING JUNE 12, 2016

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH DIRECTORS CERVANTEZ AND MCPHERSON BEING ABSENT.

11. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH MARTINEZ TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) FOR A TERM OF OFFICE ENDING JUNE 12, 2016

Director Lane presented the nomination of appointment for Joseph Martinez. Director Dodge AND Vice-Chair Robinson extended a welcome to MAC.

Public Comment

None.

ACTION: MOTION: GRAVES SECOND: LEOPOLD

JOSEPH MARTINEZ APPOINTED TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) FOR A TERM OF OFFICE ENDING JUNE 12, 2016

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH DIRECTORS CERVANTEZ AND MCPHERSON BEING ABSENT.

12. CONSIDERATION OF REAPPOINTMENT OF NAOMI GUNTHER TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) FOR A TERM OF OFFICE ENDING JUNE 18, 2016

Director Bryant presented the nomination of reappointment for Naomi Gunther and acknowledged and thanked Ms. Gunther for her years of service.

Public Comment

None.

ACTION: MOTION: BRYANT SECOND: DODGE

JOSEPH MARTINEZ APPOINTED TO THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) FOR A TERM OF OFFICE ENDING JUNE 12, 2016

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH DIRECTORS CERVANTEZ AND MCPHERSON BEING ABSENT.

8. ORAL REPORT REGARDING THE STATUS OF CONSTRUCTION ON THE JUDY K. SOUZA OPERATIONS FACILITY COMPONENT OF THE METROBASE PROJECT

Frank Cheng, Project Manager/IT Manager, gave a presentation covering the current status of the project.

Director Leopold expressed concern regarding drainage from the site into the nearby river. Mr. Cheng assured him that any water waste was and would continue to be treated and monitored through the project.

Director Dodge asked where the project was in regards to the Change Orders. Mr. Cheng stated the contractor had recently given them the numbers and they were in the process of analyzing the components.

Public Comment

None.

9. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2014

Angela Aitken, Finance Manager, presented the changes to the Meeting Schedule.

Director Lane expressed concern about accessibility for those who are mobility challenged at the Scotts Valley City Chambers.

Public Comment

None.

ACTION: MOTION: BUSTICHI SECOND: FRIEND

Director Leopold and staff discussed alternative and possibly more accessible locations including Capitola City Chambers and the Scotts Valley Community Center. Director Friend stated he would like to keep Scotts Valley as a location for meetings and inquired into the possibility of providing a shuttle.

Chair Bustichi assured the Board that Scotts Valley Chamber was ADA accessible and compliant and acknowledged the issue may be the location of the bus stop and the service in Scotts Valley. He requested to add additional service in Scotts Valley to a future Board meeting.

Director Friend moved to amend the motion to include a shuttle service. Director Bustichi expressed his support.

ADJUSTED ACTION: MOTION: BUSTICHI SECOND: FRIEND

APPROVED RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2014 WITH THE PROVISION OF ADDING A SHUTTLE FOR THE SCOTTS VALLEY MEETING.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH DIRECTORS CERVANTEZ AND MCPHERSON BEING ABSENT.

13. RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE STATUS OF PACIFIC STATION REDESIGN

Tom Hiltner, Grants/Legislative Analyst, introduced David M. Schnee with Group 4 Architects. Mr. Schnee's reviewed what had been done in the past, where they were with the project and where Group 4 envisioned for the project. He presented a timeline that included increased availability and communication to the Board. Mr. Schnee stated they were in the process of working on a feasibility study which would include allocation of funding with partners and cost market analysis and possible site expansion. He stated they would be bringing the results of this study at a later Board meeting.

Chair Bustichi stated the Board was in support of the project and suggested appointing of an ad hoc Subcommittee to meet regularly with planning and construction. After some discussion, it was decided to add this to the June 27 Board Agenda.

Public Comment

None.

14. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE 2013 SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN

Erich Friedrich, Senior Transit Planner, requested approval for the 2013 Short Range Transit Plan and referred to the partnership with Nelson\Nygaard. He introduced Mr. Thomas Whitman of Nelson/Nygaard to present the findings and recommendations.

Director Lane expressed concern about changes to ParaCruz services. Mr. Whitman replied the recommendations for ParaCruz included implantation of penalty charges and creation of a plan allowing Reservationists to evaluate whether or not a passenger would qualify for ParaCruz or if they would be able to take advantage of the Fixed Route System. Director Lane inquired if the Reservationists had the access to software that would help them make that determination. Mr. Friedrich replied that they do not.

Director Leopold expressed concern about the Transit Plan becoming a policy that would exclude mid-county areas such as Live Oak for improvement. He referred to the portion of the study that suggested the creation of Emphasis Corridors which for which Live Oak, did not qualify despite having met most of the criteria. Mr. Whitman stated the plan did not exclude areas, just establish an implementation plan. Director Leopold reiterated his concern about using this plan as a basis to create policy that would leave out areas of the community.

Director Leopold asked about bus stop spacing as laid out in the plan and inquired if Nelson/Nygaard had interviewed the Operators. Mr. Whitman stated that they had and the biggest concern of the Operators was On-Time Performance. Mr. Whitman stated one of the most successful and cost effective methods of improving this is with bus stop consolidation. Director Leopold asked how the consolidation would affect ParaCruz customers. Mr. Whitman stated it would not affect ParaCruz service.

Director Dodge asked about the expanded service recommendations; particularly in regards to the changes in routes 71 and 91x. His concern was current ridership confusion along the Soquel Avenue corridor. Director Dodge also requested increased use of shelters in South County. Mr. Whitman stated the change in routes shifted emphasis to gaining ridership and faster routes. In reference to the bus shelters, Mr. Whitman stated they were still in the process of gathering data to establish the needs and to which order they are met. Director Dodge also expressed concern about how the expanded service would affect ParaCruz.

Director Lane inquired about how the corridors were established, particularly in reference to the more remote and rural portions of the community. She also expressed concern about the request to implement the plan in a short timeframe, especially when there was insufficient data. Mr. Whitman replied that the Short Range Transit Plan was a suggestion of procedures and any change to the system would require several steps, including a public process, before any changes were made.

Chair Bustichi acknowledged the plan was an improvement from the previous version. He acknowledged the concerns that were raised and confirmed there would be public process before any changes would be made. He encouraged the Board to move forward with the plan.

Vice-Chair Robinson acknowledged it was not a perfect plan and if changes occur in the community, they can implement changes as they come. She recognized an area may have attributes that qualify it for increased service, yet the functionality and infrastructure may not be able accommodate it.

Public Comment:

Ernestina Saldana, representing the Santa Cruz County Commission of disabilities, asked the Board to make their best decision, taking consideration to the disabled and elderly community. She shared her concerns about not stopping at bus stops even though there are passengers there.

Mr. Montesino acknowledged that On-Time-Performance is an important issue but that Bus Operators would never advocate taking away bus stops.

Manny Martinez remembered the old plan and its deficiencies. He acknowledged that this was a better plan than the previous version. He objected to having a company that had a short relationship with Santa Cruz METRO make decisions. He suggested including staff and other employees to determinations on changes to the system.

Director Friend stated he saw this as a planning document that was not set in stone. He acknowledged that changes happen and adjustments can be made as needs occur.

ACTION: MOTION: FRIEND SECOND: BUSTICHI

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE 2013 SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLAN

MOTION PASSED WITH YEAS FROM DIRECTORS BRYANT, BUSTICHI, DODGE, FRIEND, GRAVES, HINKLE AND ROBINSON; NAYS FROM DIRECTORS LEOPOLD AND LANE; AND DIRECTORS CERVANTEZ AND MCPHERSON BEING ABSENT.

15. ORAL REPORT REGARDING THE STATUS OF FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AND CURRENT LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Mr. Clifford gave an oral presentation. The Board thanked him for the information and complimented him on the format used by Mr. Clifford in his outline.

Director Friend left the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Public Comment

None.

17. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 9:00 AM, SANTA CRUZ CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 809 CENTER STREET, SANTA CRUZ

Vice-Chair Robinson announced the time and location of the next Board meeting on Friday, June 27, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz City Council Chambers.

18. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Syren announced that there was nothing to report from closed session.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Eriko K. Dreyer, Pro-Tem Administrative Services Coordinator