

Minutes

RTA Committee of the Whole Meeting

10:01 a.m., Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Committee Members: Lucas (Chair), Biasiotta, Joyce, Koomar, McCall, Pellot, Weiss

Not present: Moss (virtual), Welch (virtual)

Staff: Birdsong Terry, Becker, Bober, Burney, Caver, Dangelo, Davidson, Fields, Fleig, Garofoli, Gautam, Kirkland, McGory, Miller, Mothes, Schipper, Tarka, Togher, Walker-Minor

Public: Gibbons, Loh, Collins, Groedel, Kleinman

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. Seven (7) committee members were present.

Code Book Updates

The Code Book was codified in 1989 (Resolution 1989-176). They are reviewing to update to bring policies in line with current operations. They are subject to review and revision every three years.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Dr. Natoya Walker Minor met with Board Liaison Ms. McCall to restructure the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). They discussed strategies to energize the committee for the voice of the customer and to be mindful of the customer experience. Two tasks were identified. First was appointing a new staff liaison and to review Section 222.04 Community Advisory Committee of the Code Book. She thanked Mr. Feliciano for seven years of service as the staff liaison. Mr. Johnson is the new staff liaison. Ms. Tarka will go over the proposed amendments to the CAC section of the Code Book.

Dawn Tarka, Associate Counsel and Jonathan McGory, Associate Counsel II, made the presentation. The CAC redlines in the meeting package will be different from some of the changes presented today. The updated redlines will be included in the Feb. 28th Board Meeting package.

- Recommend amending Section 222.04 Community Advisory Committee
 - Streamline subcommittee structure
 - Create Rules Subcommittee for review of Operating Guidelines
 - Reduce number of members from 20 to 11-15
 - Reduce terms from 3 to 2 years with a maximum of 2 terms
 - Clarify provision regarding emeritus status
 - Add requirement of Cuyahoga County residence

Ms. McCall added that they want to ensure the CAC are ambassadors of the community. There will be a new application process and website. By reducing the term limits, they will make room for Emeritus Status members to continue to contribute. She asked the Board to follow up with her or the staff with questions. Mr. Johnson said the website and application will be launched once approved. The three subcommittees will be revamped.

Political Activity Recommendation

- Recommend removing Section 640.03 Political Activity from the Code Book
- Recommend amending Personnel Policy 100.03 Political Activity to remove prohibition on being a candidate for public office in a partisan election to reflect change in federal law

Since the last update, the federal law governing political activity by recipients of federal funds has changed. They recommend our Personnel Policies (PP) correspond with that change. The primary difference is previously Authority employees were prohibited from being a candidate in a partisan election. That distinction has been removed from the federal law. Ms. McCall asked how this relates to Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Ethics Commission. Ms. Tarka said Ohio law does not prohibit an Authority employee from being a candidate in a partisan election. She clarified that Ohio ethics does have guidelines about what is compatible and incompatible employment. McCall added that a note should be added to the PP for employees to check with Ohio law before running for public office.

Financial Assistance

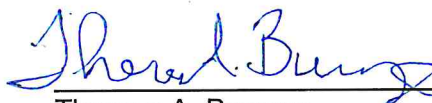
- Chapter 465 gives the General Manager the authority to apply for and accept federal, state, and private grants
- This Chapter was last updated in 2016
- These requested changes will simply update the General Manager's title and update a few citations to the Code Book and United States Code

Staff requests that the Committee of the Whole recommend these Code Book changes to the Board of Trustees for approval. It was moved by Ms. McCall, seconded by Mayor Weiss and approved to move this to the full Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.



Rajan D. Gautam
Secretary/Treasurer



Theresa A. Burrage
Executive Assistant