

CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, November 12th, 2015
RTA Board Room
1240 West 6th Street
Cleveland, OH 44113
8:30 A.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:30am

Those present at this meeting were Steve Albro, David Applefeld, Karl Benz, Johnny Brewington, Crystal Guevarez, Brooke Deines, Aldo Filippelli, Marie Fratus, Donaldson Hill, Ron Jackson, John McGovern, Edward Opett, Donna Prease, Joseph Sopko, Marjorie Sutton, Tyler Stillings, Jessica Whale, Andre White and George Zeller.

Approval of minutes from September and October 2015. There was a motion made by Marty Golob and seconded by David Applefeld, all in favor. Motion was proved unanimously.

General Manager's report, Joseph Calabrese General Manager and CEO

- Infrastructure & service updates:
 - Brookpark – going well; there was a brief shutdown for underground work - but it is back up
 - The Red Line shutdown has been postponed until Spring 2016
 - E 34th St – the design is underway
 - Lee Van Aken – construction is ongoing with scheduled opening in phases
 - Brookpark – construction is ongoing
 - E 116th Station – the design is ongoing and the St. Luke's Foundation may participate in funding alternatives
 - GILLIG CNG buses – the CNG station has been certified. There are 90 busses currently rolling on the streets
 - November 21 & 22 the Blue Line east of Shaker Square for the Lee Van Aken station – 67R buses will replace the trains
 - December 12, 13, 19 & 20 – the Red Line will shut down between E 55th and Windermere for the E 79th bridge and E 120th station demolition
 - Megabus lease has been renewed
 - DCA dog park lease has been renewed
- Trolley updates:
 - The funding runs out in the fall
 - It is recommended to cut costs from \$1.2 million to \$800,000
 - There is a question on the C Line extension to the Flat's East Bank
 - There are meetings scheduled with local entities to discuss funding
- Recognitions:
 - Dr. Flounsay Caver – Cleveland State University Levin College of Urban Affairs 2015
 - Joe Calabrese – Governing Magazine's Public Official of the Year
 - RTA has received for the 25th consecutive year the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award
- DBE forum on November 15, 2105
 - Sponsored by RTA in collaboration with Cleveland Hopkins Airport, the NEOhio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and COMTO
 - Created to support the growth and development of women and minority owned businesses with over 25 businesses represented

- There will be presentations by Rep. Stephanie Howse and Rep. Martin Sweeney
- Budget:
 - The media has been reaching out with questions
 - There will be additional meetings with the Board of Trustees regarding the increase in fares and the possibility of trimming services
 - Still hoping for the state and federal government to provide relief
 - Possibility of adding fees to the Personal Care Attendants on disability rides – could be eligible for the half fare discounts
 - Looking for hearings prior to any fare increase
 - The 4% decrease is reflected in the overall revenue
- E-cigarette policy – there is a new policy in place that is the same as regular cigarettes – it is prohibited to smoke e-cigarettes on GCRTA transportation
- Requested that something be put aside for rail improvements each year
- Hand railings at Brook Park – have been replaced
- There have been 14 hiring events since May 2015. 703 have attended, there were 667 applications received, 235 were interviewed resulting in 38 new hires.
- There was a reception held on September 29 along the art on the rail line. The funding came from NOACA and the Cleveland Foundation. There is ongoing fund raising.
- The U-Pass Program
 - Will continue with Notre Dame. The school will subsidize \$25.00 per month and RTA will match.
 - RTA met with Baldwin Wallace to explore the possibility.
- The USDOT Demonstration Project Grants
 - Two awards for pedestrian safety with up to 80 vehicles and several stations and stops.
- RTA and the Union now have an approved agreement.
- The employee giving campaign will run from October 12 – November 20 with a goal of \$150,000 and 50% employee participation. As of November 9, \$73,915 was achieved.

New Business, Gale Fisk Director of OMB (see attached presentation)

- Finance committee mtg 11/10
- Finance com mtg 12/1
- Public hearing
 - How we did in 2015
 - The problems we had
 - How to fix them going forward
 - New mode of transportation called “Vanpool” 10-12 units by the end of 2016 – shared cost with RTA and employers

New business, Joel Freilich Director of Service Management (see attached presentation)

- Winter 2015 Service Changes, beginning November 22, 2015
 - Waterfront line extended
 - Trolley changes – 9/12 will be changing
 - Potential C Line extension
 - #25 to be extended
 - #9, #8, #28 also to see some changes

CAB Chair report, Don Hill, CAB Chair

ADAC report, Ron Jackson, Committee Chair

Next ADAC meeting on 11/19

TIAC report, Marjorie Sutton, Committee Chair

January TIAC meeting is cancelled due to the meeting date falling on January 1, 2016

Next TIAC meeting February 5, 2016, which will probably be a joint meeting with the ADAC

Advocacy Committee report, Don Hill & Jessica Whale Co-Chairs

Next meeting TBD

- There are several ideas on the table for new funding possibilities

Public comments

- Individual that uses paratransit – many people that use this service are on a fixed income.
Why are those fares being raised?

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am

**Next CAB meeting December 15th, 2015
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1240 West 6th Street**