

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Minutes- Board of Directors

March 27, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the Santa Cruz City Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, California.

Chair Bustichi called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Dene Bustichi
Ron Graves
Donald Hagen
Michelle Hinkle
Ellen Pirie
Lynn Robinson
Mike Rotkin
Mark Stone
Marcela Tavantzis

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Pat Spence
Ex-Officio Donna Blitzer

STAFF PRESENT

Ciro Aguirre, Operations Manager
Angela Aitken, Finance Manager
Frank Cheng, MetroBase Project Manager
Bob Cotter, Maintenance Manager
Mary Ferrick, Fixed Route Superintendent
Terry Gale, IT Manager

Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel
Debbie Kinslow, Asst Finance Manager
Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager
April Warnock, Paratransit Superintendent
Les White, General Manager

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

Geneva Avis, Relative of Francisco Devillires
Jim Avis, Relative of Francisco Devillires
Dorothy Barton, Relative of Francisco Devillires
Francisco Contreras, Bus Operator

Steve Jurwich, Consultant
Ian McFadden, METRO Retiree
Reed Rylander, VMU
Amy Weiss, Spanish Interpreter

2. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Written:

- a. Nikki Simpson & Jerry Walters Re: Bus Stop Relocation Request

Oral:

Les White introduce METRO's new Maintenance Manager, Bob Cotter.

3. LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT EXISTING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 5-1. **ACCEPT AND FILE PRELIMINARILY APPROVED CLAIMS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2009**
- 5-2. **ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY BUDGET STATUS REPORT FOR JANUARY 2009**
- 5-3. **CONSIDERATION OF TORT CLAIMS:**
 - DENY THE CLAIM OF JOE BLAIR, CLAIM #09-0005;**
 - DENY THE CLAIM OF CSAA (SUBROGATING FOR B. SCOTT, CLAIM #09-0008**
- 5-4. **ACCEPT AND FILE THE METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) AGENDA FOR MARCH 18, 2009 AND MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2009**
- 5-5. **ACCEPT AND FILE PARACRUZ OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2008**
- 5-6. **ACCEPT AND FILE HIGHWAY 17 STATUS REPORT FOR JANUARY 2009**
- 5-7. **ACCEPT AND FILE JANUARY 2009 RIDERSHIP REPORT**
- 5-8. **ACCEPT AND FILE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY 2009**
- 5-9. **ACCEPT AND FILE METROBASE PROJECT STATUS REPORT**
- 5-10. **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH BROWN ARMSTRONG FOR FINANCIAL AUDIT AND TAX PREPARATION SERVICES**
- 5-11. **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A 5-YEAR LEASE EXTENSION FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2880 RESEARCH PARK DRIVE IN SOQUEL**
- 5-12. **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LNG FUEL WITH CLEAN ENERGY**
- 5-13. **ACCEPT AND FILE MINUTES REFLECTING VOTING RESULTS FROM APPOINTEES TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE FEBRUARY 2009 MEETING(S)**
- 5-14. **CONSIDERATION OF PROVIDING A LETTER SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TO THE ASSOCIATION OF MONTEREY AREA GOVERNMENTS FOR FUNDING FOR A MONTEREY BAY AREA 511 TRAVELER INFORMATION SYSTEM FEASIBILITY AND PLANNING STUDY**
- 5-15. **CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING REQUEST TO RELOCATE BUS STOP AT 41ST AVENUE AND SOQUEL DRIVE**

5-16. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13 & 27, 2009

Regarding page #5-5.a1, Director Hagen commented that he felt that the current “Ready Window” procedures are working well and should not be changed.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR PIRIE

Approve the Consent Agenda including comments by Director Hagen regarding the success of the current “Ready Window” procedures

Motion passed with Director Robinson abstaining from approval of the Minutes of the February 13, 2009 Board meeting and Director Spence being absent.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY AWARDS:

The following employees were presented with longevity awards for their years of service:

TWENTY YEARS

Bonnie L. Morr, Bus Operator
Dennis Neil Dougherty, Custodial Service Worker I

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Francisco J. Contreras Navarro, Bus Operator
Juanita Archibeque, Bus Operator

7. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICES OF IAN MCFADDEN AS TRANSIT PLANNER FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR ROBINSON

Adopt Resolution of Appreciation for the services of Ian McFadden as Transit Planner for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Motion passed unanimously with Director Spence being absent.

Several Directors wished Mr. McFadden a happy Retirement and thanked him for his many years of service at METRO. Mr. McFadden thanked the Board and staff for the opportunity to work at METRO for the past 23 years.

ITEM #10 WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

10. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF POSTHUMOUS APPRECIATION AND REMEMBRANCE FOR THE SERVICES OF FRANCISCO DEVILLIRES AS ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY AND CUSTODIAL SERVICE WORKER FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR ROBINSON

Adopt Resolution of Posthumous Appreciation and Remembrance for the services of Francisco Devillires as Administrative Secretary and Custodial Service Worker for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Motion passed unanimously with Director Spence being absent.

Chair Bustichi presented the Resolution to Mr. Devillires' family members and his sister, Geneva Avis, accepted the Resolution on behalf of her brother and thanked the Board and staff for acknowledging his contributions to METRO.

ITEM #9 WAS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

9. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF POSTHUMOUS APPRECIATION AND REMEMBRANCE FOR THE SERVICES OF DALE SKILLICORN AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

Director Bustichi read the Resolution aloud and announced that it would be presented at the public service to be held on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the 4th Floor Community Room of the Watsonville Civic Plaza, 275 Main Street.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR PIRIE SECOND: DIRECTOR ROTKIN

Adopt Resolution of Posthumous Appreciation and Remembrance for the services of Dale Skillicorn as a member of the Board of Directors for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Motion passed unanimously with Director Spence being absent.

8. CONSIDERATION OF MODIFICATIONS TO METRO'S DISCOUNT FARE POLICY IMPLEMENTING NEW SECTIONS AND REVISING THE VERIFICATION OF DISABILITY STATUS FORM AND CHANGING THE FORMAT

Summary:

Margaret Gallagher reported that as a recipient of Section 5307 Federal Grant Funding, METRO is required to have a Discount Fare Policy for elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and Medicare cardholders. METRO has had a policy in place for many years, which is now being updated in order to consolidate all related information into one document in a standard Regulation format.

Ms. Gallagher noted that METRO's Discount Fare Policy exceeds federal guidelines in several areas including offering discount fares during all hours of service rather than only during off-peak hours; defining "elderly" as a person 62 years of age or over rather than 65 years; allowing

disabled adults to register their children to receive a discounted fare; and allowing persons with disabilities to have one Personal Care Attendant travel with them at no charge.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROTKIN SECOND: DIRECTOR HAGEN

Accept and approve modifications to the Discount Fare Policy and Verification of Disability Status Form

Motion passed unanimously with Director Spence being absent.

11. CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH SJB GLOBALNET, INC. FOR A NEW VOIP TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Summary:

Angela Aitken reported that METRO's current telephone system in use at most of the facilities is more than 25 years old, is inefficient, and does not enable METRO to effectively communicate and leverage information technology resources. This new system will replace the current system at all facilities with a unified system that allows for dialing between sites by extension.

ACTION: MOTION: DIRECTOR ROBINSON SECOND: DIRECTOR PIRIE

Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with SJB GlobalNET, Inc. for purchase and installation of a new VOIP telephone system for an amount not to exceed \$144,943.00

Motion passed unanimously with Director Spence being absent.

12. CONSIDERATION OF STATUS OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND REPORT REGARDING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION 2009 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Summary:

Les White reported that he, Chair Bustichi and Vice Chair Pirie recently attended the 2009 APTA Legislative Conference in Washington, DC where they also met with members of Congress and Congressional Staff to discuss pending legislation that would affect METRO.

Discussion:

Chair Bustichi and Vice Chair Pirie added that METRO is very well-served by Les White, who is well-known, well-received and highly respected in DC and that Mr. White's national connections in the transit industry are very beneficial to METRO as well.

13. RECEIVE ORAL PRESENTATION REGARDING SANTA CRUZ METRO BEING AWARDED OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD BY SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2008 HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE FILLTHE BUS EVENT

Director Rotkin reported that he had accepted the award on behalf of METRO, which he presented to Ciro Aguirre and Mary Ferrick for the participation in the 2008 “Fill the Bus” event.

14. REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION: District Counsel

Margaret Gallagher reported that Board would have a conference with its Labor Negotiators regarding SEIU, Local 521, and UTU, Local 23, ParaCruz Division, and a conference with its Legal Counsel regarding the Existing Litigation claim of Macerich Partnership, L.P.

15. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

None.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Chair Bustichi adjourned to Closed Session at 10:12 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 11:29 a.m.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

16. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

Margaret Gallagher reported that the Board approved a side agreement with SEIU, Local 521, which modifies the scope of the position of Transit Supervisor to include supervision of Operations personnel in the Customer Service Department effective March 2009 until a new Transit Supervisor class specification is developed and approved by the Board. The following Board members voted to approve the agreement: Chair, Dean Bustichi, Vice Chair, Ellen Pirie, Board members, Ron Graves, Donald Hagen, Michelle Hinkle, Lynn Robinson, Mike Rotkin, Mark Stone and Marcela Tavantzis. Director Pat Spence was absent.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Bustichi adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS
Administrative Services Coordinator