



Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority
1735 Morris Avenue · Post Office Box 10212 · Birmingham, Alabama 35202-0212
Phone (205) 521-0161 · Fax (205) 252-7633 · www.bjcta.org

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Opening: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Guin Robinson, at 12:05 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room, located at Central Station, 1735 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

Members Present: Frank Galloway, Jr., Brian Hamilton, Walter Jones, Johnnye P. Lassiter, Ronald Lyas, Doris Powell, Guin Robinson, and Rev. Patrick Sellers

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Edgar Addie, Kendra Eidson Boyd, Debra Anderson-Burse, Chris Bolling, Anna Brown, Clara Christopher, Ernestine Cobb, Jacquese Gary, Judy Gordon, Barbara Lawson, Chris Leffert, Dr. Jesse Lewis, Tracy Lewis, William Muhammad, Richard Nardecchia, Wytangy Peak, Nicholas Porterfield, Nigel Roberts, Joi Scott, Ken Simon, Collina Washington, Deborah Witt, and Alberto Zaragoza

A moment of silence was observed.

Ronald Lyas led the assembly in the recitation of the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Adoption of the Agenda: The revised agenda was adopted by general consent.

Adoption of the Minutes: The minutes were adopted by general consent with the following correction: Nominating Committee Report, change the words to read "Doris Powell as Vice Chairman".

Interim Executive Director's Report –

William Copling, Interim Executive Director, reported the following:

- Staff has completed the review of the travel policy and it is now under review of legal counsel. The policy will be presented at the next Committee meeting.
- Responses to the RFP for Paratransit vehicles have been received.
- A new planning manager will start work at the BJCTA on November 2, 2009.
- The training of personnel for the new time clock system is taking place.
- The annual audit of finances started Monday, October 26, 2009; the results will be provided.
- Bus designs have been received from three (3) sources and will be presented at the Committee meetings.
- Memos of Understanding have been prepared for the participating municipalities; meetings will be scheduled for their distribution.

- The tour of NABI took place on Friday, October 23, 2009.

Richard Nardecchia, Chief Financial Officer, reported that as of September 30, 2009, assets were \$27,763,848.46 while total liabilities were \$8,497,775.24. The Income Statement details year to date revenues of \$29,316,612.84 and expenses of \$27,449,447.14 resulting in a difference of \$1,867,165.70. The total cash and cash equivalents were \$1,385,628.61 of which \$1,359,102.65 was the balance in the operating and money market accounts. The debt owed to Compass Bank was \$480,540.80, which is projected to be paid off by the end of this fiscal year. Total overall variance with the budget is a positive \$4,651,269.74.

Johnnye P. Lassiter requested that Mr. Copling hold Bessemer's memo of understanding until she contacts his office with information regarding the city's planning session, which would be a good time for BJCTA to be present and answer any questions.

Guin Robinson requested an update regarding the municipalities that are currently behind in making payments for services. Mr. Copling responded that the next step is to submit memos of understanding, letters and copies of the BJCTA procedures for terminating services. The BJCTA has not received official notice of Hoover terminating service and by policy service will continue for at least thirty (30) days after receiving notice. Mr. Robinson requested that Mr. Copling continue to keep the Board updated on these matters.

Brian Hamilton requested that staff investigate the costs of providing extended service to Hoover.

Report from Paratransit Advisory Committee –

Kendra Eidson Boyd, Chair of the Paratransit Advisory Committee, reported the Committee is comprised of fifteen (15) members that have provided training to teachers, students and parents so that persons could be transitioned from Paratransit Services to fixed route buses. The Committee recognizes that the services are vital and are very excited and grateful for the new fleet expected in 2010. In response to the question of their needs, she responded that the riders complain about buses breaking down and being late for pick ups but also realize that there are many contributing factors. Some of the disabled riders have lost jobs due to the rides being two or more hours late.

Ms. Powell expressed appreciation for Ms. Boyd's schedule and invited her to bring any future concerns to the public forum of the Board meetings to see if the Board can address them, and respectfully asked that the Board have the first chance to hear the concerns.

Report from the Transit Advisory Committee -

Deborah Witt, Chair of the Transit Advisory Committee, reported on frustrations experienced by riders and the need for quality people, quality service, and a quality product from the BJCTA. The manifest of pickups is sometimes re-adjusted and different than quoted when first scheduling the appointments. She also addressed

safety issues and repairs of buses and requested that repairs be completed on a third shift so that the buses would be ready for the following day.

Mr. Robinson requested to know the BJCTA policy on changing the schedules and also a written response to Ms. Witt's report.

Ms. Lassiter requested a response to Debra Johnson's public comments made at the September Board meeting. Mr. Robinson asked staff to make sure that all Board members received the written response.

Resolutions for Consideration –

- A. **Resolution No. 2009-35:** Authorization for the Interim Executive Director to Remit Payment to Precision Sales & Services, Inc., for the Restoration of Trolley #2173 was moved by Rev. Patrick Sellers, seconded by Ms. Lassiter, and approved by general consent.

Old Business –

Procurement Update for Buses

Mr. Copling reported that there is an order with NABI for 12-31' buses. The test vehicle will arrive by July 25, 2010 and the following vehicles by September 25, 2010. An inspector will be on site at the manufacturer's location from the beginning to end of production.

Executive Director Position

Mr. Hamilton reported that the Human Relations Committee recommends that the Board adopt a structured interview process for the Executive Director candidates, which would include core questions being sent to the candidates with a request of a written response. Board members should submit their questions by November 13, 2009, to board support, with the goal of getting the questions to the candidates by November 30, 2009.

Frank Galloway moved the motion that the Board make a request to Ken Simon, Legal Counsel, that he request an opinion from the Ethics Commission with respect to whether it is appropriate for the Board to consider an application from the former chairman to be the Executive Director of the Transit Authority and request an expedited review of the matter, seconded by Walter Jones. Mr. Robinson requested a roll call vote which resulted in unanimous approval with eight (8) ayes from Frank Galloway, Brian Hamilton, Walter Jones, Johnnye P. Lassiter, Ronald Lyas, Doris Powell, Rev. Patrick Sellers, and Guin Robinson.

New Business – None

Public Comment –

Anna Brown, transit advocate, expressed concerns for Birmingham riders that work in Hoover. She commented that she had made a request to the Birmingham City Council

