



Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Opening: The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Chris Lewis, at 12:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room, located at Central Station, 1735 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

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

Members Absent: Frank Galloway, Jr.

Others Present: Debra Anderson-Burse, Chris Bolling, Butch Ferrell, Jacquese Gary, Judy Gordon, Gilbert Klein, Barbara Lawson, Chris Leffert, Jesse Lewis, Aneesa McMillan, L.A. Moss, Richard Nardecchia, Wytangy Peak, Nicholas Porterfield, Joi Scott, Kenneth Simon, and Collina Washington

Invocation was given by Rev. Patrick Sellers.

Walter Jones led the assembly in the recitation of the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

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

Adoption of the Minutes: The minutes were adopted by general consent.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Walter Jones reported that the Finance Committee met on April 17, 2009 and also May 19, 2009. The subject matters are included in the minutes.

Human Relations Committee

Brian Hamilton expressed concerns over staff's lack of preparedness toward the May 19, 2009 Human Relations Committee meeting and the unreliability of material provided.

Program Development Committee

Ronald Lyas reported that the Program Development Committee did not meet.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Update

No report was provided.

Chairman's Report

Strategic Planning Retreat

Chris Lewis reported that one of the ideas originating from the recent Board Retreat was for the Board to create a 5-year detailed strategic plan that would outline BJCTA goals and the measures for obtaining those goals. Various BJCTA plans, such as the Transit Development Plan and the Comprehensive Transit Development Plan, were mentioned. Johnny P. Lassiter suggested that all BJCTA plans be compiled and readily available for the Board and staff members.

Mr. Lewis asked if there was a motion to facilitate a Strategic Planning Retreat and to have monies available up to \$3,000. Doris Powell made the motion; it was seconded by Ms. Lassiter, and approved by general consent. Mr. Lyas and Rev. Sellers voted no.

Town Hall Meeting

Mr. Lewis recommended that the BJCTA hold a Town Hall meeting, on June 1, 2009, to get input from the community for the spending of the \$8.7 million stimulus funds. Ms. Powell asked if the previously requested report pertaining to a breakdown of costs needed for the renovations for the 8th Avenue Facility were available from staff. Mr. Hamilton informed William Copling, Interim Executive Director, that the costs should be verifiable from a professional organization and assurances in place for costs of the 8th Avenue renovations, equipment, computer technology/ software, and bus washer. Mr. Copling replied that he is waiting on responses for the building design costs of the bay area and also for the proposed bus washers. He is currently working with estimated costs; the firm responses are expected in July and August 2009; and the deadline of June cannot be met. Ms. Lassiter requested to receive the itemized list of repairs to the 8th Avenue Facility in writing.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Copling if he planned to present his recommendations for the expenditures at the Town Hall meeting. He recommended having another meeting prior to June 15 so the BJCTA would be correct in making application to the federal government for funds.

Mr. Lewis reported that Dr. Jesse Lewis, The Lewis Group, is prepared to do the marketing for the Town Hall meeting. He asked if there was a motion for the Town Hall meeting; it was moved by Guin Robinson, seconded by Doris Powell and approved by general consent.

Stakeholders Committee Meeting – May 18, 2009

Mr. Lewis reported that the intent of the meeting was to bring in the business community to form a public-private partnership to assist in finding funds for transit. The members were supportive of BJCTA endeavors and wanted one project to rally behind and help find funding. The superstop/hub project was selected. Mr. Lewis announced that the BJCTA application for the proposed projects of superstops and the express bus service has been approved by Congressman Artur Davis's office and forwarded to the federal funding committee for further review. Thus far, there has been recommendation of funding for \$16.8 million of which \$3.6 million is for the superstops. The BJCTA would have to match \$900,000 for the superstops.

Business Council of Alabama (BCA) Governmental Affairs Conference

Mr. Lewis announced with the passing of the resolution for a Commission on Public Transportation, Alabama is closer to state dedicated funding. He recommended that the Board attend the BCA conference, a venue where urban and rural representatives gather to deal with governmental affair issues, and start building relationships across the state for transit.

Members discussed their individual reasons for deciding whether or not to attend the conference, sending a member to be representative of the Board, and inviting members of the Alabama Transit Association to attend the conference.

Mr. Jones moved the motion to allow travel to the BCA conference and that related costs incurred would be expended from the line item currently budgeted for Board travel; it was seconded by Ms. Powell, and approved by general consent. Mr. Lyas and Rev. Sellers voted no. The current travel policy guidelines will apply.

Mr. Robinson requested a detailed report be submitted to the Board on the effectiveness of the travel. Mr. Lewis concurred and said that it would be good for any member to submit a report after traveling for transit.

Farmer's Market

Mr. Lewis received a telephone call from Cathy Crenshaw, Pepper Place, requesting the Board to consider approving a weekly farmer's market on BJCTA property, as an additional feature for the riders. Ken Simon, Legal Counsel, advised that the BJCTA insurance company be notified if the Board decided to approve the request. Mr. Copling cautioned that other vendors might request similar considerations if the request was approved. Mr. Hamilton inquired if the BJCTA could receive any portion of the profits.

Mr. Robinson moved a motion to authorize the three chairs of the standing committees to make a recommendation to the full Board regarding this issue; it was seconded by Rev. Sellers, and approved by general consent. Mr. Lewis requested that Mr. Lyas discuss the matter further with Ms. Crenshaw and he agreed.

Interim Executive Director's Report –

Richard Nardecchia, Chief Financial Officer, reported that as of April 30, 2009, assets were \$31,367,420.96 while total liabilities were \$11,446,468.29. The Income Statement details year to date revenues of \$17,359,334.70 and expenses of \$16,191,070.55 resulting in a difference of \$1,168,264.15. The total cash and cash equivalents were \$6,156,447.90 of which \$6,129,933.11 was the balance in the operating and money market accounts. Total overall variance with the budget is a positive \$2,792,324.98.

Mr. Robinson requested that the overtime report by individuals be bound in his copy of the Board packet as part of the financial report.

Mr. Copling announced the following:

1. Meetings are ongoing with the participating municipalities to discuss the FY 2010 budget.
2. The BJCTA participated in a news conference with the Birmingham Police Department regarding a Community Partnership Location that will be set up at Birmingham libraries and the Transit Authority. The purpose is for the officers to improve communications and relationships with the general public.
3. Communication was received that the Union contract has been ratified.
4. Six vehicles have returned to service after the replacement of engines that the Board recently authorized approval.

Mr. Lewis inquired the following of Mr. Copling:

1. If the BJCTA has received any funds from the City of Brighton. Mr. Copling replied no, but stated that was the purpose of discussion for an upcoming scheduled meeting.
2. The status of an accident on Fourth Avenue North and Sixth Street, where a dump truck pushed a car into a BJCTA bus. Mr. Copling replied to his knowledge there were no injuries.
3. The status of CNG training for mechanics through the partnership with Lawson State Community College, the City of Birmingham and Alagasco. Mr. Copling said that he has left two voice messages that have not been returned.

Resolutions for Ratification -

Resolution No. 2009-23 – In Memory of Birmingham City Council Pro Tempore, Miriam Witherspoon was moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, and approved by general consent.

Resolution No. 2009-25 – Authorization to Adopt and Approve the Fiscal Year 2010 Operating and Capital Budgets was withdrawn.

Resolution No. 2009-26 – Motion for the Performance Portfolio to Become an Annual Document was moved by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Powell and approved by general consent.

Old Business –

Ms. Powell requested it be known for the record that the Program Development Committee meetings have been scheduled at a time that conflicts with a long standing prior commitment, thus preventing her attendance. Mr. Lyas asked her to please contact him when there is a conflict and he will do what he can to be accommodating.

Mr. Robinson suggested that the Board hold one Committee meeting each month, rather than three separate committee meetings. The chairs would remain the same and the agenda items would be discussed in reasonable order, (i.e. finance, human relations, and program development). Mr. Jones replied that the Board Chairman has coordinated monthly conference calls to discuss agendas items and when the committees should meet. There has not been full participation in the calls.

New Business – None

Public Comment – None

The **Meeting Adjourned** at 1:18 p.m. The next **Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors** will be held **Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 12:00 PM** at Central Station, 1735 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, AL.

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Lawson, Administrative Assistant

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Chris Lewis, Chairman

Attest: _____
Rev. Patrick Sellers, Secretary/Treasurer