

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, August 14, 2007, 9:30 a.m.
The SORTA/Metro Board Room
1014 Vine Street, Suite 2000
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT:	Robert W. Buechner	Robert P. Mecklenborg
	Steven P. Goodin	Roxanne Qualls
	Margaret C. Gutsell	Melody Sawyer Richardson
	Stephan M. Louis	Lamont Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS

PRESENT:	Michael H. Setzer	William J. Desmond
	H. Theodore Bergh	Mary Moning
	Marilyn Shazor	John Colin R. Groth
	Sallie L. Hilvers	Donna M. Adkins
	Timothy J. Reynolds	Perriann T. Allen
	Cynthia A. Shafer (Legal Counsel)	Carole E. Senior

OTHERS

PRESENT: Carolyn Miller, League of Women Voters
Chris Moran, League of Women Voters
Bruce Redd, Gwynne Building
Jack Streitmarter, Gwynne Building
Reggie Victor, City of Cincinnati

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Louis, Vice-Chair of the Board, noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order.

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS: Mr. Louis asked if there were any citizens who would like to address the board. There were none.

APPROVAL

OF MINUTES: Dr. Gutsell made a motion that the minutes of the July 10, 2007, regular meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

MEET THE TEAM

Mr. Setzer introduced Mike Weil, who was recently appointed to the newly-created position of Director of Security, and Daron Brown, who took Mr. Weil's place as Manager of Facilities on an interim basis.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Ms. Qualls stated there had been a meeting of the Operations and Management Committee immediately before the board meeting. The following items were presented to the Board:

1. Proposed Resolution No. 2007-37: Approval for Contract for Rebuilding Two Model 53-DS Brake Lathes

Mr. Buechner moved for adoption and Dr. Gutsell seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes SORTA to enter into a contract with Star Machine & Tool Company to rebuild two of the above model brake lathes and also directs the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to execute a contract at a total cost not to exceed \$30,000.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2007-37.

2. Proposed Resolution No. 2007-38: Eastern Avenue Sewer Separation Agreement

Mrs. Richardson moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to enter into an agreement to grant Metropolitan Design and Development a temporary easement for \$500, plus attorney and engineering fees. The Board further authorizes the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary-Treasurer to enter into an agreement to grant the City of Cincinnati a permanent sewer easement.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2007-38.

3. Proposed Resolution No. 2007-39: Refurbished Wheelchair Lifts

Mr. Buechner moved for adoption and Mr. Goodin seconded the motion. This resolution rescinds Resolution No. 2006-40 and authorizes the CEO/General Manager or the CFO/Secretary Treasurer to execute a contract for the refurbishment of wheelchair lifts with Gillig Corporation at a total cost not to exceed \$233,750.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2007-39.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Buechner reported on the status of the building lease and the feasibility of moving into the "free" space John Cranley had offered at 300 West Sixth Street. Unfortunately, the cost for the space is more expensive over the ten-year life of the lease than the cost of the Gwynne Building. The committee agreed that the most cost-effective option was for Metro to move to the Gwynne Building. The board agreed that staff did an excellent job of researching the pros and cons of the move and looked at virtually every possible angle to try to make the free space work. After discussion, the board let stand its earlier resolution for Metro to enter into a lease for the Gwynne Building space once Mr. Cranley is notified of Metro's decision and the reasons for it.

Mr. Buechner also reported on the 2008 Key Budget Assumptions and Policy Statements that were reviewed in the P&D committee meeting. The goal is to keep the same levels of service but find new revenue sources. The labor agreement expires in January 2008 which will also affect the 2008-2010 budget.

4. Proposed Resolution 2007-40: 2007 Budget Amendment

Mr. Buechner moved for adoption and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes the CEO/General Manager or the CFO-Secretary-Treasurer to amend SORTA's 2007 budget to balance the projected deficit of approximately \$2.8 million. Mr. Taylor moved for adoption and Mr. Buechner seconded a motion that SORTA issue a press release stating their concern Metro staff will be forced to cut expenses through the rest of the year and use bus replacement funds to balance the 2007 budget as required by law.

By roll call vote the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2007-40.

5. Proposed Motion: Appointment as Directors of Everybody Rides Metro

Mr. Buechner moved for adoption and Mrs. Richardson seconded the motion. This motion approves the appointment of Suzanne Hopkins, Paul Sittenfeld and Marsha Watts-Visher as Directors of Everybody Rides Metro.

By voice vote the Board unanimously approved the motion.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Setzer introduced Cindy Shafer of Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease who was standing in for legal counsel Richard Moore who is vacationing. Mr. Setzer also reported on the tragic accident on August 13 when a two-year-old boy was hit and killed by a Metro bus. The investigation is ongoing.

ACCESS MISSION

Dr. Gutsell spoke about the class-action suit that was settled in Washington D.C. and expressed her concern that Metro is providing a different service to the handicapped. SORTA's policy is to provide service that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act laws. However, Dr. Gutsell would like the service for Access riders to be brought up to a level closer to other Metro riders. SORTA may form focus groups of Access riders to determine their needs and how to meet these needs. Ms. Qualls suggested the mission statement be altered to reflect quality of service and also look at incorporating the mission into action. Dr. Gutsell did not expect the issue to be solved at this meeting, she wanted to start a dialog regarding the challenges Access riders face and perhaps look "outside the box" for creative solutions and put an end to the "bare minimum" mindset.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Qualls announced that due to her appointment to fill retiring city council member Mr. James Tarbell's city council seat, she would be unable to continue her tenure on the board and will resign as of August 31, 2007. She expressed her ongoing support for SORTA and its mission and lauded the dedication and professionalism of the staff. Ms. Qualls stated that it had been a great experience serving on SORTA's Board, especially for a person who is interested in transit and transportation issues.

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2007, 9:30 a.m., SORTA/Metro board room, 1014 Vine Street, Suite 2000, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Taylor made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Louis seconded. The Board unanimously approved the motion and the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

Lamont Taylor
Chairman

H. Theodore Bergh
Secretary-Treasurer