

Minutes

1328th Meeting of the Board of Directors March 27, 2008

Mr. Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Present were:

Directors

Mr. Chris Zimmerman
Mr. Peter Benjamin
Mrs. Catherine Hudgins
Ms. Elizabeth Hewlett

Alternate Directors

Mr. William Euille
Mr. Marcell Solomon
Mr. Jeff McKay
Mr. Tony Giancola

Staff

Mr. John Catoe
Mr. Gerald Francis
Ms. Polly Hanson
Ms. Helen Lew

Ms. Carol O'Keeffe
Mr. Shiva Pant
Mr. Chuck Woodruff
Mrs. Leen'da Chambliss

Public Comment Period:

There were no speakers during the public comment period.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved as submitted by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 28, 2008 meeting were approved.

Report by Riders' Advisory Council (RAC):

Ms. Iacomini referred to the RAC report submitted to the Board. She reported that members of the RAC had the opportunity to provide feedback about the communications and service plans for the Washington Nationals games at the new ballpark near the Navy Yard and Pope Benedict's visit to Washington, D.C. The RAC also received a presentation from staff regarding WMATA's plan to solicit proposals for the creation of a "neutral host" communications network. While RAC members were generally supportive of expanded wireless service in the Metro system, several members expressed concerns about the effect additional cell phone usage would have on the rider experience and suggested that WMATA launch an ad campaign similar to that launched by Boston's Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority reminding riders to keep their calls brief and their voices low. The RAC was also given the opportunity to submit comments to an incident management workshop held on March 12, 2008. Finally, she stated that she was pleased with the Board's renewed interest in the reliability of Metro's elevators and escalators.

Report by Chair:

B. Approval of 2008 Goals and Objectives

Mr. Zimmerman presented goals and objectives for 2008 for WMATA in the categories of safety and security; service reliability; customer communication; financial management; and employee recruitment, retention and development.

Mr. Zimmerman moved, seconded by Ms. Hewlett, approval of WMATA's 2008 Goals and Objectives. Mr. Zimmerman requested that the sixth item under Objective 3 - Customer Communications be amended to read "Improve communications during incidents" and that the items be indexed. This motion was unanimously approved as amended.

Ayes: 5 – Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Benjamin, Mrs. Hudgins, Mr. Giancola, and Ms. Hewlett

C. Swearing-In of Chief of Police Michael Taborn

Mr. Zimmerman administered the oath of office to Mr. Taborn.

Report by General Manager:

Mr. Catoe welcomed Mr. Taborn as the new Chief of Police and recognized Polly Hanson upon her retirement after 27 years of dedicated service as a Metro Transit Police officer, Chief of Police, and most recently as Assistant General Manager for Safety, Security and Emergency Management.

Mr. Catoe reported the four-week suspension of weekend track work to allow Metro to operate full weekend service during the National Cherry Blossom Festival, opening weekend for the Washington Nationals, the National Marathon, and other events in the region and the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new entrance at the Navy Yard station. He also reported that on April 29, 2008, WMATA would participate in a region-wide pedestrian safety workshop, where the goal is to create concrete measures to help prevent pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

Mr. Francis recognized Sergeant Howard Holloway, Officer Ludwig Esquivel and Officer Nopadon McKee, who, on February 12, 2008, responded to the report of an injured customer at the Fort Totten Metrorail station. The customer had slipped on an icy grate while running for a bus. The bad weather was delaying the EMS vehicle and the three officers fashioned a splint out of cardboard, a blanket and police tape, moved the customer out of the elements and administered first aid until EMS personnel arrived.

Report by Customer Service, Operations and Safety Committee

Mr. Zimmerman reported that there were no action items discussed by the committee.

Report by Finance, Administration and Oversight Committee

A. Selection of External Audit Contractor

Mr. Benjamin referred the Board to the request, with concurrence by the Audit Subcommittee, to approve the award of a one-year base contract with two one-year options to Clifton Gunderson, LLP to provide external audit services.

Mr. Benjamin moved, seconded by Mrs. Hudgins, that the Board approve this action. This motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes: 5 – Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Benjamin, Mrs. Hudgins, Mr. Giancola, and Ms. Hewlett

B. Approval to Initiate a Contract for Neutral Host

Mr. Benjamin referred the Board to the request for approval to issue a request for proposals for a master license to design, build, operate and maintain a wireless communication infrastructure throughout Metro's underground stations and tunnels. This project is to be implemented at no cost to WMATA. Staff was asked to include the proposed charges to other providers as a factor in the RFP, as well as criteria for judging the success of the project as it is being implemented. Staff will return to the Board for final contract award.

Mr. Benjamin moved, seconded by Mr. Giancola, that the Board approve this action. This motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes: 5 – Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Benjamin, Mrs. Hudgins, Mr. Giancola, and Ms. Hewlett

Mr. Benjamin noted that the committee began a review of the proposed 2009 operating and capital budgets, which were discussed as information items.

Report by Planning, Development and Real Estate Committee

A. Parking Lease for Former Southeast Bus Facility

Mrs. Hudgins referred the Board to the request for approval to negotiate and execute lease agreements with Washington Nationals Stadium, LLC, for use of WMATA's Southeastern Division Bus Garage and surface parking lot at Van Street, SE for a one-year period only and to allocate lease revenue to the capital budget.

Mrs. Hudgins moved, seconded by Ms. Hewlett, approval of this action. This motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes: 5 – Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Benjamin, Mrs. Hudgins, Mr. Giancola, and Ms. Hewlett

Mrs. Hudgins reported that briefings on both Metro Matters and urgent unfunded capital needs were discussed as information items.

Administrative Actions

Mr. Benjamin moved, seconded by Ms. Hewlett, that the Board approve, en bloc, Administrative Items XI numbered 2 and 3. This motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes: 5 – Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Benjamin, Mrs. Hudgins, Mr. Giancola, and Ms. Hewlett

2. Approval to Initiate & Award a Parking Management Services Contract

Approval to initiate and award a competitive procurement for a multi-year parking management services contract in support of the cashless parking program, and, if the need arises, authorize the extension of the current parking Management services contract on a month-to-month basis until the new contract is awarded.

3. Approval to Initiate & Award a Contract to Replace an Automotive Paint Booth

Approval to initiate and award a contract to replace an unsafe, antiquated paint booth at the Service Vehicle Body Shop.

1. Approval to Enter Into a Lease Agreement for Parking Spaces at White Flint

Approval to negotiate and execute a Real Estate Permit with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to rent up to 200 parking spaces per month at the White Flint Metrorail station parking garage.

Mr. Benjamin moved that this item be deferred indefinitely until discussion of this issue with Montgomery County, stating that by approving this action, WMATA would be providing destination parking instead of promoting transit use. Mrs. Hudgins seconded the motion and requested a report of the facility's usage. This motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes: 5 – Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Benjamin, Mrs. Hudgins, Mr. Giancola, and Ms. Hewlett

Report by D.C.: Mr. Giancola reminded those present of the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Navy Yard entrance at Half Street.

Report by WSTC: None

Report by NVTC: Mr. Zimmerman stated that he was hopeful that the Governor of Virginia would call a special session to address the transportation funding crisis, and that he and others would work hard to ensure that funding for Metro would be included in any resolutions to be considered.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Leen'da Chambliss, Acting Board Secretary