

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARIZONA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

Monday, September 12, 2005

Parsons Brinckerhoff

Phoenix, AZ 10:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Rick Simonetta called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. President Simonetta announced AzTA had authorized a \$1000 donation to the APTA Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. He also presented Past President Steve Brown with a plaque for his years of service. President Simonetta then introduced the guests: Jack LaSota and Nick Promponas, Sr. Vice President with First Transit.

Nick Promponas stated he is the General Manager for First Transit's Western Region. He recently relocated to Chandler, Arizona. Nick will be serving on our Education/Training Committee.

II. ATTENDANCE

Rick Simonetta

Paul Miller

Jim Dickey

Jean Ann Fisher

Steve Tyminski

Jeff Meilbeck

Steve Brown

Ken Driggs

Larry Miller

Dave Boggs

Carlos de Leon

Pat McGowan

John Anderson

Jack LaSota – RPTA Attorney

Stuart Goodman – Goodman Schwartz Public Affairs

Nick Promponas - General Manager, First Transit-Western Region

Deanna Graham – Gannett Fleming

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Stuart Goodman stated the City of Sierra Vista has sponsored a League of Cities and Towns resolution to NOT reduce the LTAF II distribution. Stuart has a meeting scheduled with Senator Burns to bring this resolution to his attention.

Stuart had just received several possible dates to schedule the next meeting with Gail Howard. Gail Howard has indicated the Governor would possibly be attending AzTA's Legislative Conference in December 2005. Stuart will schedule the next meeting with Gail Howard. He feels we will have a better feel for what is coming up in January by the October board meeting.

At this time, Stuart did not feel there will be any changes in government positions. Mary Peters will more than likely gracefully bow out. Mr. Thompson (Gilbert) may run as he has the financial ability to make it happen.

Jack LaSota indicated Mr. Thompson had previously teamed up with Fife Simington. Fife Simington is presently in investment banking/political arena so Mr. Thompson may actually be a player.

President Simonetta stated CTOC (Prop 400) wants to move Valley Metro Rail's October meeting to VMR offices. Rick is viewing this as a positive meeting.

Ken Driggs commented they want to turn the clock back on the State usurping HURF funding. It would be nice if AzTA had some ability to support the cities on the HURF side as HURF money would help our bus situation. Stuart Goodman will go on a mission regarding HURF and report back to the Board.

Jim Dickey stated the County's take was \$100 million of LTAF II. Carlos de Leon stated Tempe is struggling because of the reduction in HURF funding. Mr. Dickey encouraged everyone to get in their applications to ADOT for LTAF II funding. ADOT will do their best to get a one-time distribution of funds. ADOT is committed to getting their part done by October 15. There is \$5.3million available. With next year's changes to LTAF II distribution, we would not have received any funding at all.

President Simonetta congratulated Jeff Meilbeck on being one of twelve selected from 70 applicants to participate in a federally sponsored Transit and Creative Financing mission. These twelve individuals will go around the world in two weeks: one week in Europe and the second week in Asia. Rick Simonetta and Jeff Meilbeck will both be participating in this opportunity from October 20 through November 5, 2005.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Meeting Minutes

Motion: Steve Brown moved approval of the August 1, 2005 Board Retreat meeting minutes.

Second: Jean Ann Fisher

Action: Approved Unanimously

A. Financial Report a/o August 31, 2005

Ken Driggs reviewed the Financial Report stating in the first two months of our Fiscal Year, we had received \$57,000 in revenue and spent \$29,000.

Motion: Ken Driggs moved approval of the financial report.

Second: Larry Miller

Action: Approved Unanimously

B. Investment Income Update

John Anderson stated Nate Peterson is meeting with Wells Fargo tomorrow, September 13, on an investment plan. It has been very difficult to find an institution with options for CD income for a business. Wells Fargo does have the ability to do something. We hope to have is spelled out by the October board meeting.

Action: Nate Peterson

Jim Dickey indicated that his name still appears on the Bank of America savings account. John Anderson will have his name removed from the account.

Action: John Anderson

The financial review is scheduled for October 12 with Sharon from RPTA/Valley Metro Financial Office.

C. Liability/Insurance Discussion with Jack LaSota

John Anderson gave a little background on this issue. AzTA presently has General Liability Insurance. AzTA does not have Criminal Liability if funds were stolen or Liability Insurance if the Executive Director or Board members were involved in a lawsuit. The question is does AzTA need either of these additional insurances.

Jack LaSota did not think it was necessary for AzTA to have any additional insurance. But also indicated if insurance is cheap enough, then it couldn't hurt. He felt the public board members were probably covered by the employers.

Each public sector board member should check with their employers to make sure they are covered against lawsuits.

Action: Board Members respond to John Anderson.

Motion: Larry Miller moved AzTA expenditures over \$5000 have two signatures required. One signature would be the Executive Director and the other would be any other authorized signature. The Executive Director will order checks that state "Two signatures required for amounts in excess of \$5000" as well as two signature lines on each check.

Second: Dave Boggs

Action: Approved Unanimously

Action: John Anderson

D. AzTA Board Appointment

John Anderson stated there had been three applicants for the vacant position on the Board. One of the three applicants was not being considered because the Board's directive had been for a Rural board member and this applicant was Urban. The two remaining applicants are Shirley Scott and Mack Luckie.

Paul Miller encouraged John Anderson to invite applicants who were not selected to become involved at the committee level. John Anderson will call Helen Knoll and Shirley Scott to get them involved on a committee.

Action: John Anderson-COMLETE

John Anderson distributed a Board Contact list of all the Board Members with phone numbers and email addresses. A request was made to add cell phone numbers to this list. John Anderson will have the Board Contact list updated and distributed.

Motion: Jeff Meilbeck nominated Mack Luckie for the vacant Board position. The term expires 2008.

Second: Jean Ann Fisher

Action: Approved Unanimously

Action: John Anderson-COMLETE

E. Rio Rico Board Meeting

John Anderson indicated Rio Rico would like to offer \$1000 credit toward rooms/meals to AzTA for another board meeting in the future. They would like to have another opportunity to show they could do a good job. Committee chairs will keep this offer in mind and possibly hold a meeting at Rio Rico.

F. 2006 Board Retreat

London Bridge Resort has not returned John Anderson's calls to coordinate the 2006 Board Retreat in Lake Havasu. Jeff Meilbeck said he would call Brad Bixler and indicate he is willing to coordinate the Board Retreat in Flagstaff if accommodations are not available in Lake Havasu.

Action: *Jeff Meilbeck & John Anderson-COMPLETED*

G. APTA Grant

John Anderson announced he had put together an APTA Grant for \$5000 to bring speakers to a Rail Symposium in conjunction with our Annual Conference in April. John is confident we will receive this grant for the following reasons: in the past those who apply have generally received the funding, we are a PT2 member and preference is given to those with a NAPTA membership. As soon as we receive notification of grant funding, John Anderson will contact the Mission Palms to extend the Annual Conference from three to four days. The last day of the conference would be the Rail Symposium.

Action: *John Anderson*

H. AzTA Scholarship

There was general discussion regarding sending an individual to the two week SWTA Transit/Paratransit Certificate Program to be held in October & November. Jim Dickey, ADOT, is an instructor for this program. Since the time frame is short and the cost more than the allotted \$3,000 scholarship, no one will be attending this program at this time.

It was suggested to Jim Dickey that perhaps SWTA could hold a future Certificate Program in the Valley to reduce travel costs.

Strategic Planning will evaluate the Training Institute Project and recommend future action.

I. Selection of Strategic Planning Consultant

Larry Miller recommended Megan Davis, The Davis Consulting Group, Inc., be used as the consultant for the Strategic Planning task force. Ms. Davis will help structure the program. She will come together with the team at appropriate intervals to develop a Mission Statement and Goals. The proposal outlines three one-day sessions with Megan Davis to accomplish the Strategic Plan.

Larry Miller stated Megan Davis would also like to become a member of AzTA. John Anderson will mail Ms. Davis a membership packet.

Motion: Larry Miller moved the acceptance of the \$7500 proposal from Megan Davis. This proposal would take us to next spring.

Second: Paul Miller

Action: Approved Unanimously

Action: John Anderson-COMLETE

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. New Website Update

Carlos de Leon indicated the website framework is complete. This website could certainly be used for job postings as well as upcoming meetings. The website should be up and running near the end of September. They are just putting the updated information into it. Contractor will provide onsite training to AzTA staff.

Action: John Anderson-TRAINING SCHEDULED

B. Legislative Conference Update

The Legislative Conference committee had a conference call on Friday to scope out the conference. The conference to be held at the Civic Center Plaza will include a legislative breakfast as well as these possible topics: ADOT impact; State and Local agenda; United We Ride; RTA Process; Governor's Possible Attendance. Possible speakers would be Mary Peters, Bill Millar and Leslie Rogers. Members of the committee were to review and comment back to John Anderson by September 13. Another conference call is scheduled for Monday, September 19. Larry Miller suggested Jack Tevlin as a possible speaker.

There was much discussion regarding the agenda as well as the timing of the Legislative Conference. It was noted that with the lack of a Strategic Plan, it makes it difficult to know what to address at the Legislative Conference. This time next year it is the hope that we have a very focused strategy. Committee members were directed to address the issues discussed during the next Committee Conference Call. The Strategic Planning Task Force should look at our goals and the timing of the Legislative Conference.

C. Annual Conference Update

If we get the APTA grant for \$5000, we will add an additional day to the Annual Conference. Annual Conference dates would be April 24-28.

D. Rural Working Group Committee Update

Paul Miller reported everyone has been busy and the committee has not been able to meet. A telephone conference will be scheduled. Members of the committee will have to commit to meeting or name a replacement who is able to attend meetings.

E. Education & Training Committee Update

This committee does not currently have a chair. No meetings have been scheduled.

F. Statewide Planning Issues & 5309 Discretionary Program

Jim Dickey praised AzTA for the in-roads made by working closely with Gail Howard and Victor Mendez. He would like to see AzTA as an aggressive advocate. Jim Dickey also envisions AzTA as the organization where the discretionary program is defined at the State level. AzTA could possibly submit requests in a consolidated/coordinated program. Mr. Dickey indicated in a lot of states, that is the primary objective of their Transit Associations. Jeff Meilbeck agreed with Jim Dickey using Flagstaff as an example. Flagstaff has received \$8 to \$10 million already. The Light Rail has received billions of dollars.

Jim Dickey noted there are key people in the legislature that like rail and adding rail to the Annual Conference will help in the political arena. He feels AzTA should recruit rail members from the rail organizations. Action Required: John Anderson will call Roger Milroy and discuss the membership possibility.-COMPLETED. A meeting has been scheduled with Jack Tevlin, Roger Milroy, Jim Dickey & John Anderson.

Ken Driggs commended Jim Dickey on the outstanding job he has done at ADOT in a few short months.

VI. BUSINESS NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA

A. Golf Tournament Update

John Anderson indicated Roger Milroy had sent out all the golf invitations. Roger requested all members spread the word. New sponsors are needed this year so let Roger know if you have anyone interested in sponsoring the tournament.

B. ADOT Board Meeting - Gilbert & Wickenburg

The October ADOT board meeting will be held in Gilbert on October 21. Carlos de Leon will attend this board meeting. The November ADOT board meeting in Wickenburg will be attended by Ken Driggs.

VII. NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 10, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at PBQD.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

President Rick Simonetta adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.