



The COMET Board Meeting minutes are prepared and presented in summary form, audio recordings of the meetings are on file at The COMET and are part of the approved minutes. If you would like to hear the recording from the meeting, please contact Paige Jernigan at cometadmin@catchthecomet.org.

Per SC Code of Laws, Title 30, Chapter 4, Section 30-4-80 - All public bodies shall notify persons or organizations, local news media, or such other news media as may request notification of the times, dates, places, and agenda of all public meetings, whether scheduled, rescheduled, or called, and the efforts made to comply with this requirement must be noted in the minutes of the meetings. The COMET complied with the notification of this meeting on Friday, June 21, 2019 at 3:15 p.m.

**The Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority
Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 12:00 P.M.
3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 - Conference Room A**

Members Present:

Ron Anderson, Chair
Jacqueline Boulware*
John V. Furgess, Sr.
Representative Leon Howard
Skip Jenkins*
Col. (R) Roger Leaks, Jr.
Lill Mood
Dr. Robert Morris
Debbie Summers
Geraldine Robinson

Guests Present:

Jackie Bowers, Operations Manager, Transdev
Darrell Campbell, Lobbyist, Campbell Consulting Group
M. Elizabeth Crum, Burr, Foreman, McNair Law Firm
Derrek Doughty, Public
Casey Forrester, Public
Tanisha Gibbons, Human Resources, Transdev
Bobby Kuhn, Solutions for Transit
Adelee LeGrand, Vice President, Transdev
Larry Livingston, DART Operations Manager, TCS
Brenden Matthews, Transdev Inc.
Shanell Shephard, Campbell Consulting Group
Avis Watson, Driver, Transdev
Kari Wilson, Solutions for Transit

Absent Board Members:

Joyce Dickerson
Carolyn Gleaton
Bobby Horton
Derrick Huggins
Kevin Reeley
Andy Smith
William (B.J.) Unthank

**Indicates participation by phone.*



The COMET Staff Present

John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO

Rosalyn Andrews, Director of Finance/CFO

LeRoy DesChamps, Director of Administration & Operations/COO

Paige Jernigan, Interim Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Dr. Arlene Prince, Director of Regulatory Compliance & Civil Rights Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M.

A quorum was determined at the beginning of the meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Representative Howard arrived at 12:04 p.m. and Ms. Robinson arrived at 12:05 P.M.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Dr. Morris to adopt the agenda with the addition of the following items:

1) Incident/Investigation discussion, 2) Motions period and amended to add 3) Call to the Public.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed.

3. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 22, 2019 MEETING MINUTES (PAIGE JERNIGAN)

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Col. Leaks to approve the May 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed

**B. APPROVAL OF THE INVOICE PAYMENT SELECTION LISTING ENDING JUNE 31, 2019
(ROSALYN ANDREWS)**

Dr. Morris questioned why we weren't discussing the items before they are approved. Ms. Andrews explained that normally these items would be approved by the Finance Committee in advance,



however, there was no Finance Committee meeting held in the month of May. He suggested in the future we hold Finance Committee before Board meeting.

Motion:

A motion was made by Dr. Morris and seconded by Col. Leaks to approve the invoice payment selection.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed

- C. SERVICE COMMITTEE UPDATE & ACTION ITEMS (JOHN ANDOH)
 - I. APPROVAL OF OPERATION OF SHUTTLE FOR FIRST THURSDAY

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Col. Leaks to approve the operation of the shuttle for First Thursday on Main.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed

- 4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC COMMENTS MUST PERTAIN TO ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.
 - THE BOARD CANNOT COMMENT.
 - INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD MUST SIGN UP PRIOR TO THE CALL TO ORDER
 - COMMENT TIME LIMIT - TWO (2) MINUTES PER PERSON

Mr. Casey Forrester introduced himself and stated his purpose was to present on behalf of his son Ashley. He explained that Ashley is autistic and works at Richland Memorial Hospital. Ashley has consistently been riding the DART system for six (6) plus years. His concern is the old bus stop has been discontinued. The stop is now at Midlands Tech but the DART bus passes right by his home. He stated that his son could be picked up in a park past his home, but that location is not a safe area.

Mr. Andoh stated that the Board approved the change back in January 2018 that the DART system only parallels fixed route in a (3/4) three quarters of a mile radius. He explained that the change moved from 1 (one) mile bus stop to (3/4) three quarters of a mile. He added that DART is limited during the summer due to school not being in session and unfortunately Mr. Forrester is out of the bubble.

Mr. Furgess asked how long Mr. Forrester's son Ashley has been riding DART. Mr. Forrester replied



for (6) plus years. He then asked Mr. Forrester if he was properly notified of the change. Mr. Forrester couldn't recall but he didn't think he had. He heard the information from the dispatcher.

Dr. Morris asked for clarification on the bus passing his house. Mr. Forrester verified that indeed the bus travels past his home. Mr. Anderson said we need to figure out a solution and suggested Mr. Andoh recommend some suggestions for a future meeting. Mr. Anderson assured Mr. Forrester that we would get back to him with a solution.

Mr. Furgess expressed to Mr. Anderson that it disturbs him that we are offering a free shuttle ride on First Thursday and that Mr. Forrester's son can't get transportation due to being out of the bubble. He thinks the Board needs to look further into this matter. This will be reexamined by the Board and by Mr. Andoh. Mr. Anderson thanked Mr. Forrester and commented that this will be taken to the Service Committee as an agenda item for discussion.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Avis Watson introduced herself. She has been employed since November 2015 as a driver and now is training to be a supervisor. She added that she loves her job but fears daily that she may endure a loss of employment. She continued by adding that the morale is low due to poor management. Inconsistencies, favoritism, unreliability and cliques are an everyday occurrence. She added that there are no repercussions for disrespect to management, coworkers and our customers.

She emphasized that "management is the cause and not the solution for failing to enforce company policy." Mr. Furgess asked if this had been reported to the General Manager, Human Resources, and the Ethics and Compliance Department. She responded that she has however, she has not received a response.

She added that no one really knows whom to report to downstairs. Mr. Furgess stated that this should be done in executive session format and should not be discussed in a public forum. Mr. Anderson reiterated that this is a public setting and she can speak openly. Mr. Anderson asked for a motion to extend Ms. Watson's time by (5) five minutes to fully be heard.

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Mr. Anderson to extend the amount of time by (5) five minutes so Ms. Watson could continue to speak.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed



Col. Leaks asked about her taking this information to her Union representative. He asked if she had taken this matter to the General Manager, she stated yes to both questions.

Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Andoh the appropriate way to proceed. Mr. Andoh stated that he has advised Ms. Watson to go her supervisor, Regional Director of Human Resources and the Ethics and Compliance Department. He added that she has exhausted all available resources without resolution.

Mr. Anderson suggested that Mr. Andoh follow up with Transdev on the matter and report back to the Board of his findings.

5. MOTION PERIODS (NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN ON THE MOTIONS REQUESTED) (MR. FURGESS)

Motion:

A motion was made by Dr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Furgess that all Board Meetings and Committee Meetings must have a quorum to proceed with the meeting be referred to the next Board meeting's agenda after a by law and legal counsel review.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Dr. Morris that ability of the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Board to negotiate the contract is clearly identified to be referred to the next Board meeting agenda.

Approved: Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Morris

No: Anderson, Mood

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Dr. Morris to remove the Executive Director from any and all negotiations regarding the employment of the Transdev General Manager to be referred to the next Board meeting agenda.

Approved: Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Morris

No: Anderson, Mood

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed



Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Dr. Morris that all brochures regarding The COMET and Soda Cap Connector must include Allen University and Benedict College to be taken to the Service Committee for review then presented to the Board.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Dr. Morris that all calls to the Executive Director, The COMET staff and/or the Contractor staff from a Board member be returned within (24) twenty-four hours excluding the weekend or the holidays be taken to the Executive Committee to review policy.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Dr. Morris that all contracts must be reviewed and presented to the Board from the legal team and be referred to the Executive Committee for review.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Dr. Morris that the 2019 fiscal budget be reduced by the Planner salary of \$150k from the Salary and Benefits line be referred to the Finance Committee for review and discussion.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Abstain: None

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Dr. Morris that all financial transactions regarding bank accounts or financial institutions must be approved by the Treasurer and the Board, be referred to the Finance Committee for review.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed



6. LEGAL/CONTRACTUAL/PERSONNEL (MAY REQUIRE EXECUTIVE SESSION)

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Mr. Furgess to enter Executive Session.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed

The Board entered Executive Session at 12:49 P.M.

Executive Session ended at 1:04 P.M.

Motion:

A motion was made by Dr. Morris and seconded by Furgess to exit Executive Session.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed.

Mr. Deschamps asked the Board for the approval of the proposed incentive goals and the payout for the (5) five items discussed in Executive Session.

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Dr. Morris that the Board approve the proposed incentive goals and the payout for the items discussed in Executive Session regarding compensation.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Abstain: Furgess

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed

7. ADJOURN

Motion:

A motion was made by Col. Leaks and seconded by Dr. Morris to adjourn.

Approved: Anderson, Boulware, Furgess, Howard, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Dickerson, Gleaton, Huggins, Smith

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 P.M.



CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Adopted this 7/26/19, 2019, Agenda Item _____

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paige Jernigan', written over a horizontal line.

Paige Jernigan, Interim Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Andy Smith, Board Secretary