**COMET BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**July 23, 2014**

**Members Present: Guest Present:**

**City of Columbia**  Ron Anderson Frannie Heizer, McNair Law Firm

Brian DeQuincey Newman Nicole Smith, Campbell Consulting

Derrick Huggins Walter Durst, MTRA

Al Dozier, Free Times

**Forest Acres** Jake Broom Rick Silver, Chernoff Newman

Jackie Bowers, Veolia Transportation

**Lexington County** Lill Mood Larry Livingston, Veolia Transportation

Rebecca Conway, Lexington County

Sandra McKinley, Veolia Transportation

**Richland County** Kelvin Washington Carlos Jones, Citizen

Heloris Woolridge, Veolia Transportation

Charles Epps, Citizen

Karl Rouse, ABLE

**Rich. Co. Leg. Dele.** John Furgess Chuck Statler, Derrick, Stubbs and Stith

Robert Morris Rosalyn Lorrick, Veolia Transportation

Joe Neal Jerry Bowers, Veolia Transportation

**Absent Board Members:** Darin Black, Veolia Transportation

Jennifer Harding Gary Hopper, Veolia Transportation

Skip Jenkins Derrick Bruen, Veoila Transportation

Debbie Summers Betty Robinson, Veolia Transportation

Mac Bennett David Lewis, Citizen

Gloria Tanner, Consultant

Keith Seymour, MTRA

Liz Crum, McNair Law Firm

Sara Ellis, The State

Mamie Jackson, Citizen

**COMET Staff Present:**

Robert Schneider, Executive Director

\*Denotes Participation by Phone Missy Lawlor, Administrative Coordinator

Daphne Givens, Finance Manager

Rosalyn Andrews, Staff Accountant

Pamela Middleton

Brittany Higgins

Tiffany James

LeRoy DesChamps

Samuel Scheib

Virginia Goodson

Da’Veda Sistrunk

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Brian DeQuincey Newman called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM.

1. **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was present at the opening of the meeting.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES**
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**A motion was made by Lill Mood and seconded by Robert Morris to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.**

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 28 AND JUNE 6, 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Lill Mood and seconded by Robert Morris to approve the May 28 and June 6, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.**

1. **MIDLANDS TRANSIT RIDERS ASSOCIATION**

Walter Durst of Midlands Transit Riders Association stated that they have attended varius meetings within the community to promote the service. Mr. Durst also thanked the Board of Directors for revisiting the Holiday service. Mr. Durst also mentioned that The COMET needs to have more communication with the drivers so that they are aware of the changes soon that will be taking place. Mr. Durst also stated that the MTRA will be holding its General Meeting on September 13 at the Bostic Auditorium from 2:00 – 4:00.

1. **COMMENTS FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS**

Keith Seymour – Mr. Seymour thanked the Board for what is happening with the 11/12. He also mentioned the communication with the drivers. He stated that he will forward the information for the General Meeting to all the Board Members.

Iris Thomas – Mr. Thomas stated that she would like to see an express route from Irmo. She stated that there are a lot of people that would ride it.

Mr. Epps – President of the Starlight Neighborhood Association stated that he attended the meeting that was held last Thursday night and was very disappointed and hurt. He stated that they have a lot of ederly people that use this service and with the new service it will not come in the neighborhood and they would have to walk a long way to be able to use the new service. He is asking that we reconsider this route and allow the buses to go into the neighborhood.

Mr. Jackson – Mr. Jackson stated that he is very concerned with the bus service. He stated that there a elderly people in wheelchairs that use this service. He also stated that they all voted for the penny and wants to know what it is doing and are they going to see it to their advantage.

1. **REPORT FROM BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Kelvin Washington stated that they did not have a quorum at the meeting. Mr. Washington also stated that Mr. Statler will be working on a 6 and 9 month budget revision. He also stated that he has asked for a report of the cap procurements.

• Financial Report and Overview – Daphne Givens reviewed with the Board the Financial Statement for April.

1. **REPORT FROM SERVICE STANDARDS**

Lill Mood stated that the committee discussed the ridership data and increasing the Holiday Service.

**A motion was made by Lill Mood and seconded by Derrick Huggins to reinstate holiday service, except for Thanksgiving and Christmas on a weekend schedule, plus route 30. Motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by John Furgess and seconded by Joe Neal that all route changes need to come before the full Board prior to going to committees.**

**Opposed – Ron Anderson**

Discussion

Lill Mood stated that we consider the things conceptual/work in progress. She stated that we try to work it out in the committees before bringing it to the Board.

Brian Newman stated that this is the result of the last expansion. We have to put a system in place before we all get to the board. He stated that this may cause some delays so we need to get organized with it.

Kelvin Washington stated that it need to come to Full Board then the board should send it to the committee.

Frannie Heizer stated that we will need to amend the By-Laws and that she can come up with the language.

1. **PROPOSED ROUTE CHANGES**

Kelvin Washington stated that we need to address in the communities.

Larry Livingston stated that he has looked at a solution to operating the Orbit. He stated that Route 4 will continue as is and Route 1 and Route 3 will be served. He stated that Kilbourn Road and East Way Park will be served. He stated that he still has some concern from Starlite up Bluff Road.

**A motion was made by Kelvin Washington and seconded by Brian Newman to incorporate changes and to hold public hearing that are specific to that region. Motion passed unanimously.**

1. **PASS PORT PARKING**

Bob Schneider gave an overview of Pass Port Parking App with the Board. He stated that we are now live on Google Transit.

A motion was made by Brian DeQuincey Newman and seconded by Joe Neal to move forward on this project and to participate in the pilot.

Joe Neal asked if there were costs associated in this project.

Bob Schneider stated that there is no cost to The COMET.

Opposed –

Kelvin Washington

**Motion Passed**

1. **COMET PARTNERSHIP TO MISSION 2014/UNITED WAY**

Bob Schneider explained to the Board the Mission 2014 and asked for the Board to donate 600 All Day Passed to The United Way for the Mission 2014.

A motion was made by Brian DeQuincey Newman and seconded by Joe Neal to approve the donation of 600 Bus All Day passed for the Mission 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

1. **AVAILABILITY OF HALF FARE PROGRAM TO PARTNER AGENCIES**

Bob Schneider explained our fare process for agencies and is requesting that we offer the partner agencies the discounted half fare program.

**A motion was made by Lill Mood and seconded by Brian DeQuincey Newman to offer our partnering agencies the half fare program. Motion passed unanimously.**

1. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

Bob Schneider stated that staff is working on the half fare passes and route maps at this time and we should have those finished very soon.

1. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (No Discussion Unless Specifically Requested)**

* **Contract Operator’s Report**
* **Fuel Cost/Price Update**
* **News Clippings**
* **Written Comments/Recommendations**

1. **LEGAL/CONTRACTUAL/PERSONNEL (May Require Executive Session)**

**A motion was made by Brian Newman and seconded by Kelvin Washington to enter into Executive Session to discuss Operator Procurement. Motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Kelvin Washington and seconded by Robert Morris to come out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.**

1. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

None

1. **ADJOURN**

**A motion was made by Kelvin Washington and seconded by Lill Mood to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Brian DeQuincey Newman adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:46 PM.

*COMET Board Meeting minutes are prepared and presented in summary form, audio recordings of the meetings are on file at the COMET.*