**COMET BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**August 27, 2014**

**Members Present: Guest Present:**

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

Brian DeQuincey Newman Mamie Jackson, Citizen

Derrick Huggins Walter Durst, MTRA

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

Jackie Bowers, Veolia Transportation

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

Debbie Summers Rebecca Conway, Lexington County

Sandra McKinley, Veolia Transportation

**Richland County** Kelvin Washington Ken Shealy, Consultant

Mac Bennett Heloris Woolridge, Veolia Transportation

Jennifer Harding Keith Seymour, MTRA

David Lewis, Citizen

**Rich. Co. Leg. Dele.** John Furgess Betty Robinson, Veolia Transportation

Robert Morris Rosalyn Lorrick, Veolia Transportation

Joe Neal Jerry Bowers, Veolia Transportation

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

Skip Jenkins David Grey, SCDOT\*

**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 12:06 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 Brian DeQuincey Newman and seconded by Mac Bennett to move agenda item 14 to 7A. Motion passed unanimously.**

1. **APPROVAL OF THE JULY 27 AND AUGUST 13, 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Mac Bennett and seconded by Derrick Huggins to approve the July 27 and August 13, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.**

1. **MIDLANDS TRANSIT RIDERS ASSOCIATION**

Walter Durst of Midlands Transit Riders Association thanked the Board for considering the holiday service again. Mr. Durst also stated that we need to explain more of what the ID system is for the half fare program and to please consider the Sandhills route again. 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**

Dr. Jaman Miller Bay – Ms. Bay stated that she is a child of public transit and is a rider of route 4. Ms. Bay is concerned about the traffic that is going to delay the bus on Olympia and Shop Roads. Is requesting that we help with this in making sure that the buses stay on time.

Larry Livingston explained the alternate route for tomorrow’s game.

Keith Seymour – Mr. Seymour spoke about the bulletin board that is for the MTRA use at the Transit Center. He stated that they are still unable to use it and would like to know when they can expect to get keys to this.

David Lewis – stated that we are having problems with the route 101 and elderly people having to cross the street. He also stated that the monitor that is at the transit center is still not working and this needs to be fixed. Mr. Davis also stated that there are a lot of flies at the transit center and we need to try to get that under control.

Mamie Jackson – Ms. Jackson stated that the Board and Staff are guilty of discrimination against constituency. She stated that we promised that the system would be reinstated if the penny passed. Ms. Jackson stated that the Garnet line is new and runs every 20 minutes but would not stop for her 2 times because she is black, female and elderly. She also stated that the best buses were put on the garnet Route and that Mr. Schneider was handing out bus passes. Ms. Jackson also stated that there was a rat in the transit Center.

Shakima Manning – Ms. Manning stated that her DART route at Sandhills is discontinued and she was told that it would be back before Christmas.

Board Discussion of needs in the Sandhills area.

A motion was made by Kelvin Washington to establish a Pilot Route out to the Sandhills area.

Dianne Wally – Ms. Wally stated that she attended a meeting last month where there was discussion of sidewalks, streets and walking trails and buses. She stated that before all the buses should be discussed first and foremost. Ms. Wally stated that Benedict-Allen needs extended service. She also stated that some of the bus stops are filthy. Ms. Wally also spoke on the Belvedere area and that we need to tear down the downtown transit center and start over.

**7A. LEGAL/CONTRACTUAL/PERSONNEL**

**Convene Executive Committee**

1. **Call to order 12:57**
2. **Quorum – Yes**

**A motion was made by Lill Mood and seconded by Mac Bennett for the Executive Committee to enter into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Joe Neal and seconded by Jennifer Harding for full Board to enter into Executive session. Motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Joe Neal and seconded by Mac Bennett for the Full Board to come out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Lill Mood and seconded by Mac Bennett for the Executive Committee to come out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.**

1. **MOTIONS PERIOD/NEW BUSINESS**

**Executive Committee**

**A motion was made by Kelvin Washington and seconded by Lill Mood to accept the Title VI complaint and to have the Executive Committee direct proper investigation. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Full Board**

**A motion was made by Joe Neal and seconded by Lill Mood to direct McNair to work with other counsel to investigate. Motion passed unanimously.**

Joe Neal would like Mr. Schneider to notify him of what is being done for Ms. Manning on the Sandhills route.

**A motion was made by Ron Scott and seconded by Mac Bennett to send the following to the Service Standards Committee**

* Route 11 & 12
* Sandhills
* Frequency Improvements
* Later Service
* 20 min service at trunk lines
* Event Routes

**And to establish a workshop to investigate safety at bus stops. Motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Brian DeQuincey Newman and seconded by Robert Morris to have the Budget Committee review staff salary. Motion passed unanimously.**

1. **REPORT FROM SERVICE STANDARDS**

A review of ridership data was given by Samuel Scheib.

1. **REPORT FROM BUDGET COMMITTEE**

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

1. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

Bob Schneider stated that staff has been working on the following:

* Garnet Route
* Route 1 & 16
* Route 101
* First batch of benches and shelters are here and RFP is out for the placement of those.
* Gamecock Express
* Half Fare Id Cards

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)**

**Moved to item 7A.**

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

1. **ADJOURN**

**A motion was made by Ron Anderson and seconded by Mac Bennett to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Brian DeQuincey Newman adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:57 PM.

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