



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 pjernigan@thecometsc.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 Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 3:15 P.M.

The Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority
Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 13, 2020 at 12:00 P.M.
3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 - Conference Room A

Members Present:

Ron Anderson, Chair*
Joyce Dickerson*
John V. Furgess, Sr.*
Representative Leon Howard*
Derrick Huggins*
Skip Jenkins*
Al Koon*
Col. (R) Roger Leaks, Jr.*
Lill Mood*
Dr. Robert Morris*
Geraldine Robinson*
Andy Smith*
Debbie Summers*
William "B.J." Unthank

Guests Present:

Frannie Heizer, Burr and Foreman, Attorney*

**Indicates participation by phone.*

Absent Board Members:

Carolyn Gleaton
Tem Miles



The COMET Staff Present

John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO

Rosalyn Andrews, Director of Finance/CFD

Leroy DesChamps, Director of Administration & Operations/COO

Eric Harris, Planning & Development Specialist

Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

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

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Dr. Morris to adopt the agenda.

Approved: Anderson, Dickerson, Furgess, Howard, Huggins, Leaks, Mood, Morris

Absent: Smith, Gleaton

Voice Vote:

Anderson - Aye

Dickerson - Aye

Gleaton - Absent

Furgess - Aye

Howard - Aye

Huggins - Aye

Leaks - Aye

Mood - Aye

Morris - Aye

Smith - Absent

Motion passed.

3. ACCEPT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE FARE-FREE UNTIL THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE OF EMERGENCY ENDS

Dr. Morris stated that it is essential that we provide transportation for our riders.

Mr. Andoh explained that the recommendation of the Finance Committee is that The COMET remain fare free until the Governor of South Carolina State of Emergency ends. Additionally, Mr. Andoh explained that staff was requested to investigate the installation of barriers for transit operators. There was also discussion of continuing to operate fare free after the State of Emergency status ends as The COMET will have CARE Act funds that can alleviate that cost.



He asked for a motion to accept the Finance Committees recommendation.

Mr. Smith joined the call at 12:10 P.M.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Ms. Dickerson to accept the Finance Committees recommendation to continue fare free until the Governor of South Carolina State of the Emergency ends; and to revisit the fare free service and the impacts of installation of bus operator barriers at the end of the State of Emergency using Federal Transit Administration CARES Act funding to cover such costs.

Approved: Anderson, Dickerson, Furgess, Howard, Huggins, Leaks, Mood, Morris, Smith

Absent: Gleaton

Col. Leaks asked about the funding and the cost of the barriers. Mr. Andoh explained that the Finance Committee requests more research and clarity. He continued that the Staff would work with the Committee before presentation to the Board.

Ms. Summers joined the call at 12:12 P.M.

Voice Vote:

Anderson - Aye

Dickerson - Aye

Gleaton - Absent

Furgess - Aye

Howard - Aye

Huggins - Aye

Leaks - Aye

Mood - Aye

Morris - Aye

Smith - Aye

Motion passed.

4. ACCEPT THE SERVICE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO IMPLEMENT A SUNDAY SCHEDULE OF TRANSIT SERVICE, IMPLEMENT A LIMITED ON DEMAND SERVICE IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS NO FIXED ROUTE AND CREATE A COVID-19 TASK FORCE TO ADVISE THE COMET STAFF ON EMERGING CONDITIONS

Mr. Anderson asked Attorney Heizer if as the Chair, he can create an Ad-Hoc Committee? Ms. Heizer confirmed.



Mr. Anderson verified who would serve on that Ad-Hoc Committee: Huggins, Leaks (Chair), Mood.

Col. Leaks explained that The COMET needs to keep in line with the Governors Executive Orders. As a result, Col. Leaks stressed the importance of keeping our Staff, bus drivers and our passengers safe. Col. Leaks continued and stated that after discussion, the Service Committee recommends that the Board of Directors accept their recommendation to implement a Sunday schedule of transit service, implement a limited on demand service in areas where there is no fixed route and create a COVID-19 Task Force to advise The COMET staff in conjunction with Change Order #5. He referred to Page 27.

Mr. Andoh referred to Page 29. He noted the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the Columbia Urbanized Area will receive funding to cover the cost.

Motion:

A motion was made by Col. Leaks and seconded by Ms. Mood to accept the recommendation of the implementation of a Sunday service with the redaction of creating a Task Force Committee.

Approved: Anderson, Dickerson, Gleaton, Furgess, Howard, Huggins, Leaks, Mood, Morris, Smith

Absent: Gleaton

Ms. Mood explained the decline in ridership and the Committee was concerned that those out of the service area could still be served.

Voice Vote:

Anderson - Aye

Dickerson - Aye

Gleaton - Absent

Furgess - Aye

Howard - Aye

Huggins - Aye

Leaks - Aye

Mood - Aye

Morris - Aye

Smith - Aye

* Motion passed.

5. ADJOURN

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Huggins to adjourn.

Approved: Anderson, Dickerson, Gleaton, Furgess, Howard, Huggins, Leaks, Mood, Morris, Smith

Absent: Gleaton




Meeting adjourned at 12:19 P.M.


CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Adopted this April, 2020, Agenda Item _____

Prepared by:


Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Approved by:


Andy Smith, Board Secretary

