

## **MINUTES**

### **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**January 10, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority held a meeting on January 10, 2019 at 2:21 p.m. in the Board Room on the 6th Floor of the MARTA Headquarters Building, 2424 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

#### **Board Members Present**

Roberta Abdul-Salaam  
Robert L. Ashe III  
Robert F. Dallas  
Frederick L. Daniels, Jr.  
William "Bill" Floyd  
Ryan Carter Glover  
Jerry Griffin  
Freda B. Hardage  
Alicia M. Ivey  
Russell McMurry\*  
John "Al" Pond  
W. Thomas Worthy

MARTA officials in attendance were: General Manager/CEO Jeffrey A. Parker; C-Suite Team Members – Chief Administrative Officer Luz Borrero, Chief System Safety, Security & Emergency Management/Police Wanda Dunham, Chief Financial Officer Gordon L. Hutchinson, Chief of Staff Melissa Mullinax, Chief Counsel Elizabeth O'Neill, Chief Rail Operations David Springstead; AGMs LaShanda Dawkins, Virgil Fludd, Benjamin Limmer, Kirk Talbott, Emil Tzanov and Thomas Young (Interim); Chief Information Security Officer Dean Mallis; Executive Director Paula Nash (Interim); Senior Directors Donna DeJesus and Colleen Kiernan; Directors Rhonda Allen, John Cochran (Acting) and Jonathan Hunt; Manager Executive Office Administration Tyrene Huff; Sr. Executive Administrators Ashanti Boothe, Tonya Gantt and Keri Lee; Others in attendance Negesha Boyd.

Also in attendance were Robert Highsmith, Jr. of Holland & Knight; Joe Beasley; Jonathan Crumly of Taylor English Decisions; Michael Davis of Connect South Fulton; John Evans of DeKalb County; Paul Jones; Edward Leidelmeyer of Fulton County; Seth Mills; Keith Parker of Clayton County; Connie Smith-Lindsey of Georgia Department of Public Health.

\* Russell R. McMurry, P.E. is GDOT Commissioner, and is therefore a non-voting member of the MARTA Board of Directors

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### **Gresham Transportation System Update – GM Parker**

MARTA continues to negotiate and discuss contract terms and costing. We are making significant progress in working towards a resolution. Staff is focused on this issue and we hope for resolution by next month.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Joe Beasley. Spoke on the Gresham matter. He said no good faith has been shown toward this company – two years into the contract, and they still have not been paid. He has confidence this matter will be brought to a successful conclusion.

Mr. John Evans. The contract with Gresham needs to be resolved. It has been two years. MARTA needs to be transparent in coming to a solution for the contract. Also asking the Board to deal with rail going East down I-20. DeKalb has been paying and there should be rail in east DeKalb.

Ms. Brenda Harrison. Resident of Clayton County. There is not a Clayton County resident on this team – someone that knows Clayton and address issues with the residents of Clayton County. Secondly, when MARTA attends the Board of Commissioners and other meetings in Clayton, please send someone who has accurate information. One of your staffers, Traci Robinson, knows the issues facing Clayton County. Highway 148 needs buses.

Dr. Joanne Rhone. My concern is the renaming of West End Station. I hope to get some answers today regarding West End.

Ms. Leesa Kellan. A 20-year resident of West End. An avid MARTA user. Enjoys living in the West End. I like that the station is named after the area. I am joining the people who want to keep the name West End Station.

Ms. Jeanette Blawn. Have lived in West End since 1984. Vehemently opposed changing the name of West End station.

Ms. Susan Cobb. Homeowner in West End. Proud that the station is named after the community.

Chair Hardage thanked commenters. She announced that the Board discussed West End at today's Work Session and is developing a policy on naming stations. The Board agreed that 'West End' will always be a part of the name of the station.

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Ms. Gina Mangham. Represents residents of south and southeast DeKalb. There has been no expansion of rail in South DeKalb. The Ninth and Thirteenth Amendments of the Rapid Transit Contract offer heavy rail from Indian Creek to Stonecrest Mall. In April 2012 the MARTA Board approved heavy rail expansion from Indian Creek along I-285 and I-20. DeKalb is asking for a plan. We have met with the CEO, Board of Commissioners and legislators. To have meaningful discussion, we need a plan and the courtesy of a response.

Ms. Lisa Stines. Please keep the name of West End station. The Ashby train station parking lot needs to be opened. Volunteered to work on MARTA's Advisory Ridership Council.

Ms. Joscelyn O'Neil. We need trash containers on Bouldercrest in the Ellenwood area. There is one bus shelter going east and one bus shelter going west. People are standing in rain and mud. We need rail in southeast DeKalb.

Mr. Jonathan Crumly. Disappointed that the Gresham Transportation issue is not resolved. Gresham is ready, willing and able to get back to work.

Mr. Paul Jones. Agrees with Ms. O'Neil's statement. Additionally, for the next month, the Board needs to consider single tracking on the August 2 contractual agreement with Gwinnett. The contract is based on a general law HB930 which plagiarized a referendum for Gwinnett and Cobb. Gwinnett needs to come into the MARTA system the right way.

Ms. Connie Smith-Lindsey. I have lived in Georgia for 30 years and rode MARTA as a student at Spellman College. I believe in what MARTA has to offer the state of Georgia. Currently work in a government office where I try to use MARTA as a partner so that we can educate riders on the importance of their health. When I heard you were voting on your advertising policy, I had to come to today's meeting. I urge you to change your policy that has been written since 1979. There are mothers and fathers and children on MARTA trains who must know important information about reducing the flu, HPV, how to fight cancer, the opiate/opioid epidemic. But we can't reach them if MARTA's policy continues to say you must advertise through an ad campaign with the national Ad Council. I look forward to the outcome of your vote.

**Minutes of the December 6, 2018 Meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors**

On motion by Mr. Ashe seconded by Mr. Daniels, the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0, with 11\* members present.

**Resolution of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority's Board of Directors Authorizing the Amendment of the Authority's Advertising Policy**

On motion by Mr. Griffin seconded by Mr. Daniels, the resolution was unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0, with 11\* members present.

**Resolution of the MARTA Board of Directors Adopting Legislative Guidelines for the 2019 Georgia General Assembly**

On motion by Mr. Ashe seconded by Ms. Ivey, the resolution was unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0, with 11\* members present.

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**Adjournment**

The meeting of the MARTA Board of Directors adjourned at 2:53 p.m.