

PARTA  
PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

PARTA ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
2000 SUMMIT ROAD  
KENT, OHIO 44240

May 25, 2017

Board Members Present:

Jerry Beach  
Dominic Bellino, Vice President  
Rick Bissler, President  
Marge Bjerregaard  
Richard Brockett

Jeff Childers  
David Gynn  
Virginia Harris  
Pete Kenworthy

Timothy Lissan  
Jeremy Moldvay  
Frank Vitale  
Karen Wise

Staff Present:

Claudia Amrhein  
Marcia Fletcher  
Frank Hairston

Kelly Jurisch  
Katherine Manning  
William Nome, Legal Counsel

Rebecca Schrader  
Brian Trautman

Members Not Present:

Brian Gray (excused)

R. T. Mansfield (unexcused)

Others Present:

Jack Amrhein  
Kelvin Berry  
J. Michael Fiala (and family)

Jerry Fiala  
Jodie Fiala

Sue Fiala  
Kim Sumwalt

CALL TO ORDER

President Rick Bissler welcomed everyone to the May 25 Board meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. An oral roll call followed and a quorum was present.

Mr. Bissler said the minutes from the April 27, 2017, Board meeting were distributed and he entertained a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Marge Bjerregaard made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Virginia Harris seconded the motion. **Motion to approve the minutes, as presented, passed unanimously.**

GUEST COMMUNICATIONS

None.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bissler said the General Manager's report was distributed and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Amrhein if there was anything she would like to elaborate on in her report.

Ms. Amrhein noted the resolution to ratify the agreement with Dominion/East Ohio Gas was removed from the agenda because PARTA has not yet been able to execute the agreement. It is expected to occur over the next few days and will be brought back to the Board in June. She also indicated she would like Ms. Katherine Manning to give a brief overview of the ridership campaign that will be launched in June in conjunction with NEORide, which includes SARTA in Canton and Akron METRO in Summit County.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any questions for Ms. Amrhein. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Manning to provide her overview.

Ms. Manning said a Summer in the Cities campaign, including Free Fare Fridays, will be launched jointly with Akron METRO and SARTA on June 15 at the Robert K. Pfaff Transit Center at Akron METRO. Everybody will be able to ride all PARTA fixed routes, except for the Cleveland route, every Friday in July and August this summer for free. County Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett will also be attending the campaign launch in conjunction with the Dump the Pump campaign, which will include a band, free food, a twitter photo booth with the hashtag #summerinthecities, and giveaways. Riders are encouraged to take pictures of themselves riding all three (3) transits going to different events. A new website for NEORide has been created to encourage people to attend, which features different places where people can go on fixed routes in all three (3) counties. T-shirts will be worn by all transit employees promoting the event. All three (3) transits will be coordinating radio ads. There will be literature, website ads, and bus ads. The goal is to encourage people to get on the fixed routes and try them out. This will help to improve ridership not only in Portage County, but riders will be able to see the connectiveness available to Akron and Canton, as well. The Board will continue to be updated.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Manning and then moved on to committee reports.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Bellino said the Finance Committee met on Tuesday and reviewed the April reports. Everything looks good and is in the black for April. Nothing major to report other than a change in internal reporting and monitoring of the Federal Capital Maintenance Assistance revenue and Capital Maintenance Service.expense. Some of the Federal Capital Maintenance Assistance revenue and Capital Maintenance Service expenses originally were budgeted under the operating report that is distributed every month. The issue stems from the revenue and expenses for refurbished buses, which was a sizable amount. Even though it's a maintenance expense that extends the life of the buses, for accounting purposes, it's a long-term asset so it needs to go in the capital budget. As the year goes on, those two (2) line items will be under budget in the Board report. On the report distributed today, the year-to-date percentage under Capital Maintenance Service expense is 19%, but it should be around 33%. The bottom line is the revenue and expenses are the same, but they will be reported differently. If anyone wanted a technical accounting description or explanation, he suggested they contact Ms. Schrader.

Moving on, Mr. Bellino said KCG – the parking deck – is in good shape for April too, showing an uptick in revenues from the prior month. Year-to-date surplus is around \$30,000. All the details are in the minutes.

Mr. Bellino said one (1) of the resolutions is the Pilot Program contract with Portage County Department of Job & Family Services, which hopefully grows into an additional long-term revenue source for PARTA. He likes the idea of diversifying the revenue streams. The Finance Committee did recommend approval of the three (3) resolutions, but only two (2) are before the Board.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any questions for Mr. Bellino.

**FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS/PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

This committee did not meet.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Hearing no questions, Mr. Bissler said the Nominations Committee met and he asked Mr. Moldvay to give his report.

Mr. Moldvay said the Nominations Committee did meet. He opened the floor for officer nominations and asked those who are interested to reach out to Ms. Wise, himself, or Ms. Bjerregaard.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

This committee did not meet.

**PUBLIC RECORDS COMMISSION REPORT**

This committee did not meet.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None heard.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Moving on, Mr. Bissler said there are two (2) resolutions before the Board.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**#2017-05-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH D. FIALA, WHO LED THE EFFORT TO ESTABLISH PARTA AS A REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY IN 1975 AND WHO CHAMPIONED THE CAUSE OF EXPANDING TRANSPORTATION THROUGHOUT PORTAGE COUNTY, TO REDEDICATE THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE HONORING HIM SO THAT ALL MAY APPRECIATE AND REMEMBER THE DISTINCTIVE SERVICE AND MANY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO OUR COMMUNITY BY JOSEPH D. FIALA.**

Mr. Bissler entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Ms. Marge Bjerregaard made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Timothy Lissan.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Jeremy Moldvay - Yes	Dominic Bellino - Yes	Richard Brockett - Yes
Pete Kenworthy – Yes	Jerry Beach -Yes	Virginia Harris - Yes
Jeff Childers - Yes	David Gynn - Yes	Timothy Lissan - Yes
Karen Wise - Yes	Frank Vitale - Yes	Rick Bissler - Yes
Marge Bjerregaard - Yes		

Ms. Amrhein said PARTA and the Board were pleased to have the Fiala family here tonight. It's a great honor to be able to accept a piece of PARTA's history and rededicate the plaque. One of the most important things that PARTA can do as an organization is to remember and appreciate the people who have come before us, who have set the table for placing us where we are today, and then for us to do the work of being good stewards of the resources that we've been entrusted with today so that those who follow will have the right path to go on. In that spirit, she said PARTA is pleased to accept the plaque from the Fiala family that once hung in a former building. Also, in the spirit of collecting history as an organization for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a wall was put together documenting PARTA's history. She said she didn't know Joe Fiala, but Mr. Bissler did and it has been a passion of his for quite a long time to find a way to properly recognize Mr. Fiala's contributions.

Mr. Bissler said Jodie Fiala vacated her position on the Board and he had the privilege of taking her position on the Board in 2003. Shortly thereafter, a training session was held with boards from other transit agencies. That is when PARTA's Board realized Mr. Fiala's vision. PARTA is an RTA. It is a government entity. Other transits were run out of the county government and at the whim of the county commissioners as to how much money they had to operate that next year. He said he worked for Mr. Fiala the 1973-1974 school year. PARTA didn't start until a year after that but he remembers hearing Mr. Fiala going on and on about how the Campus Bus Service picked up students, and there were lots of people in this county that needed a ride but were passed by because they couldn't ride the campus bus. He said John Drew talked about transporting the people that need it most and that's who PARTA is. He thanked the guests for their heritage and Mr. Fiala for his wisdom in creating PARTA. He then asked Ms. Amrhein to read the resolution.

Ms. Amrhein then read the resolution and presented the Fiala family with a framed resolution.

Mr. Bissler asked if anyone would like to address the Board.

Mr. J. Michael Fiala, on behalf of the Fiala family, extended gratitude for the continued recognition of the efforts of his father in bringing transportation to Portage County. He said it doesn't seem like a day passes that he doesn't meet somebody who either drove for Campus Bus Service, was on the PARTA Board, or is an avid rider of PARTA. When he was a driver from 1993-1996, he got to experience first-hand taking transportation out into Portage County. In renewing this plaque, he wants to renew his father's charge. He said as children, his father reiterated "dare to dream." That's what brought Portage County a transportation system. That's what created a bus system run by student labor and had the best safety record in the nation at one point. He said he is sure PARTA will be faced with funding challenges, ridership challenges, and community

support, but remember to "dare to dream" because somewhere there's a path that will continue to bring the service into Portage County.

Mr. Jerry Fiala thanked the Board on behalf of his brother. Dare to dream. Someday it will happen. PARTA is still making it happen today.

Mr. Bissler invited everyone to enjoy the refreshments and stay for pictures after the meeting. He then moved on to Resolution 2017-05-02.

**#2017-05-02: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES (PCDJFS) FOR SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYMENT PILOT TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM SERVICES.**

Mr. Bissler entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Dominic Bellino made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Jerry Beach.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, a roll call vote was taken as follows:

- |                         |                        |                       |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jeff Childers - Yes     | Karen Wise - Yes       | Timothy Lassar - Yes  |
| Marge Bjerregaard - Yes | Jerry Beach - Yes      | David Gynn - Yes      |
| Frank Vitale - Yes      | Richard Brockett - Yes | Virginia Harris - Yes |
| Dominic Bellino - Yes   | Pete Kenworthy - Yes   | Rick Bissler - Yes    |
| Jeremy Moldvay - Yes    |                        |                       |

Mr. Bissler said there is no reason for an executive session and called on Mr. Hairston.

Mr. Hairston said he wanted to let the Board know that PPTAFI had a successful golf outing and he thanked the Board for their support.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Bissler said the next Board meeting is June 22 and asked if there was anything else for the good of the order. Hearing nothing further, he entertained a motion to adjourn.

Mr. David Gynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Marge Bjerregaard seconded the motion. **Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcia Fletcher  
Executive Assistant