



Wednesday, June 20th, 2024
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the Hood River County Transportation District

224 Wasco Loop, Board Conference Room
Hood River, OR 97031
4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Greg called the Board of Directors Meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

2. Roll Call

Tiah took roll call: Greg Pack - Board Chair, Megan Ramey - Board Vice Chair, Tamra Taylor - Board Secretary/Treasurer, Eleazar Reyes, Gisela Ayala-Echeverria, Matt Althoff

Absent: Meghan Larivee

Staff: Amy Schlappi, Jeff Acciaioli, Tiah Mayhew

Public: Emily Bechtold – Merina & Co., Anne Medenbach – Copper West Real Estate

3. Approval of May 15th, 2024, Board of Director Meeting Minutes

Greg asked if there were any changes that the board would like to make to the May meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were included in the board meeting materials. No changes were requested.

Motion: Matt made a motion to approve the May 15th Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Tamra.

Approved by: Megan R, Tamra, Gisela, Eleazar, and Matt

Opposed by: None

4. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

5. Executive Session

Greg placed the Board into Executive session and cited ORS 192.660(2)(e) "To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions." and ORS 192.660(2)(i) "To review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing."

Motion: Matt made a motion to exit the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Gisela.

Approved by: Megan R, Tamra, Gisela, Eleazar, and Matt



Opposed by: None

Motion: Tamra made a motion for the Executive Director to work with the Executive Committee to move forward with acquiring land that meets District needs for a park and ride facility. The motion was seconded by Megan R.

Approved by: Megan R, Tamra, Gisela, Eleazar, and Matt

Opposed by: None

6. Monthly Financial Report – Tiah Mayhew

a. LGIP Update

The LGIP account is now up and running with all funds now transferred to CAT's account.

7. Resolution and Action Items – Amy Schlappi

a. Approval of STIF Committee Member Application

Kate Garrison from Providence Dethman House has applied for the STIF Committee. Kate works as a coordinator for low-income senior citizens at Dethman House and has been an advocate for seniors and disabled individuals. Staff recommends the Board approve Kate's application for the STIF Committee.

Motion: Megan R. made a motion to approve Kate Garrison for the STIF Committee. The motion was seconded by Gisela.

Approved by: Megan R, Tamra, Gisela, Eleazar, and Matt

Opposed by: None

b. Approval of WSDOT Grant Applications for the FY25-27 Biennium

Staff has been working on two applications approaching the next biennium. One for weekend service to Bingen and White Salmon. Currently CAT only services that area during summer weekends and this new grant application would expand the service to all weekends throughout the year. Future bridge construction was mentioned as well as a 5% funds match from The City of Bingen and The City of White Salmon.

The second grant application is to expand seasonal Dog Mountain service in which the Forrest Service would like CAT to add 2 more days per weekend. Most likely running the Dog Mountain shuttle Thursday-Sunday or possibly Friday-Monday. Amy went over total costs expected and noted that staff will not move forward with these plans unless all partners agree with match funds.

Motion: Tamra made a motion to approve the presented applications. The motion was seconded by Matt.

Approved by: Megan R, Tamra, Gisela, Eleazar, and Matt

Opposed by: None



c. Adoption of FY24-25 Budget and Approval of Tax Rate

Motion: Tamra made a motion to approve the staff recommended changes to the Budget. The motion was seconded by Eleazar.

Approved by: Megan R, Tamra, Gisela, Eleazar, and Matt

Opposed by: None

Greg read the budget resolution.

d. Greyhound/Flix Co-Location

CAT has been working with Greyhound/Flix and ODOT to determine if relocating the Greyhound/Flix stop to CAT rather than Downtown Hood River, also to have CAT sell tickets for Greyhound/Flix. There is currently no Greyhound/Flix office and CAT could assist with information for passengers, create better transit connections and earn a 8% commission on ticket sales. Staff recommends that the Board approve the Executive Director to move forward with contractual discussions with Greyhound/Flix. Greg, Megan and Eleazar has questions about logistics and the length of the contract.

Motion: Megan R. made a motion to approve the Executive Director to move forward with contractual discussions with Greyhound/Flix. The motion was seconded by Eleazar.

Approved by: Megan R, Tamra, Gisela, Eleazar, and Matt

Opposed by: None

8. Operations Manager Report – Jeff Acciaioli

a. Performance Report

The overall safety score is 98. Only two harsh events were recorded. Vehicle hours driven for May were 1,387 hours, miles driven were 48,853, fuel costs for the month were \$16,700 for a fuel cost per mile of \$0.34 per gallon. CAT had no formal customer complaints. A few minor vehicle incidents were detailed by Jeff including scraping a guard rail on the Hood River Bridge, the wind blowing a dumpster into an employee's parked vehicle, a bus window breaking from a minor collision with a USPS vehicle and an anonymous witness reported a bus was driving erratically. Footage was reviewed by supervisors and no issues were observed.

Customer incidents included a passenger wanted to get off the bus at an undesignated stop. The driver deemed the location not safe. A passenger blocked the bus with a vehicle so they would have time to look for cell phone. Loitering in CAT station lobby. A passenger claimed they had a gun and intent to use it. CAT locked down and scene was cleared. The passenger was detained by police. A passenger tried stealing the bathroom key. He also had a large knife. The supervisor kindly asked him to return the key and told him he cannot board with a knife. The passenger responded and told him he did not plan on getting on the bus and returned the key.



b. New Samsara Cameras

Two buses have been outfitted with new cameras from Samsara, they allow live streams aboard the bus remotely as well as some AI features with a focus on safety. The Samsara program is currently used to track CAT buses, so the cameras integrate seamlessly.

c. Bus Stop Changes and Additions

Starting July 1st new stops on the City Route will be added at 5th and Cascade, 11th and Pine, and 8th and Sieverkropp. New signs are being produced, and updated brochures with the new schedule will be printed. Weekend service to White Salmon launches June 22nd. CAT has recently hired three part-time drivers and one full-time driver

d. Mechanic RFP

CAT released an RFP for a mechanic, a promising proposal was received and is under review.

d. Employee of the Month

Tim Ravins was named Employee of the Month.

d. Ridership

CAT had over 10,000 riders in May which set records for ridership. Dog Mountain shuttle saw some days with over 700 riders per day. Ridership was also up on City route and Columbia Gorge Express.

9. Executive Director Report – Amy Schlappi

a. Grant Applications Update

Amy reviewed all grant applications that are coming up. The two WSDOT grants discussed earlier are both due Sept. 17th. The ODOT discretionary grants for at The Columbia Gorge Express service and bus stop infrastructure will be open for submissions in July. The STIF planning for FY25-27 is coming up as well.

10. Discussion Items

Tamra mentioned she has gotten comments about the Board Meetings being hard to access and suggested we post on social media notifying the public when our Board meetings occur.

11. Upcoming Events

No upcoming events were discussed.

12. Adjournment – 4:56 PM

Motion: Tamra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Matt.

Approved by: Megan R, Tamra, Gisela, Eleazar, and Matt

Opposed By: None



The Hood River County Transportation District Board of Directors meeting minutes are prepared and presented in summary form. Video recordings of the meetings are on file at CAT and are part of the approved minutes. If you would like to watch the recording of the meeting, please contact Tim Ravins tim@catransit.org, or call (541) 386-4202.

Prepared by: Tim Ravins, Administrative Assistant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Ravins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Approved by: Tamra Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamra Taylor", written in a cursive style.