



**MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
CAPITAL AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM
AND
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
JUNE 16, 2015
4:30 p.m.
BREC Administration Building
6201 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Donna Collins-Lewis

Ms. Collins-Lewis called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Messrs. Brandt, Breaux, Honore, O’Gorman, and Perret and Mss. Collins-Lewis, Perkins, and Pierre. Ms. Roe was absent. Also present were Mr. Robert Mirabito, CEO; Mr. Conner Burns, CFO; Mr. Bill Deville COO/Project Manager; other CATS staff; Wendell Lindsay and Creighton Abadie of Lindsay & Abadie, A.P.L.C., CATS attorney; and members of the public.

III. INVOCATION

Ms. Perkins gave the invocation.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2015, MEETING

Mr. Brandt moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2015, board meeting and Ms. Perkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA TO ADD APPROVAL OF MAY 28, 2015, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Perkins moved to amend the agenda to add the approval of the May 28, 2015, special meeting minutes. Mr. O’Gorman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Brandt moved to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2015, special meeting and Ms. Perkins seconded. The motion carried without objection.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

1. CEO Report: Mr. Bob Mirabito

Mr. Mirabito mentioned the highlights of his written report contained in the members' packets. His comments included: CATS has filled the Director of Safety and Training and Grants Managers positions; Jeanette Eckert will be the Controller; the Human Resources Department has developed relationships with LSU and Southern University to supply CATS with candidates for administrative positions; CATS has hired two interns for the Planning Department from Southern and LSU; CATS Medicaid reimbursement continues to grow monthly and CATS billed \$43,181 for May services; we reached record advertising sales for May - \$61,275 – and kudos go to Theo Richard for his work with this endeavor; CATS took delivery of five Gillig buses that came with built-in WiFi equipment for public access; after inspection of the 10 buses for lease, it was discovered that they were not as advertised and the decision was made not to purchase them; CATS is working with Lafayette to purchase at minimum costs 4-6 buses with 1 and ½ years useful life remaining; CATS will be providing service to the Miss USA pageant for two weeks in July; CATS implemented route changes and schedule adjustments on June 7th; the phone system will be upgraded the week of June 15th to support call recording and alerts; and RFP for integrated camera system and new facility access system has been released; the CATS board retreat is scheduled for July 24-25; action by the State Legislature on the Visitors Center clears a path for CATS to lease access to the restrooms outside normal working hours; we continue to work to resolve the issues at the Mall of Louisiana; the lease for the north Baton Rouge hub is still with the FTA; and we continue to wait on FHWA to transfer approximately \$900,000 in shelter funds to the FTA.

There were 211,424 total passenger trips in May, 59 complaints, and the on-time performance was 77.4%. The complaints break down as follows: courtesy – 16; facilities – 1; passed up – 13; performance – 22; safety – 6; and IT/website issues – 1. The increase in complaints is a result of the improved Customer Care process that retrieves more complaints in a centralized location; it is important to note that there are 59 complaints from 211,424 trips for the month, a percentage of 0.0280%.

2. Financial Statements: Mr. Conner Burns

Mr. Burns described the highlights of the written financial report showing the status of grants contained in the members' packets, and stated that the balance of the grants was \$6,364,700.

He then discussed the highlights of the financial statements. The 2015 year-to-date property tax monies received was \$15,673,587, and the amount expended from that source was \$7,220,410. May operating revenues were \$274,877 and governmental revenues were \$1,594,998 for a total source of funds of \$1,869,875. The total direct operating expenses were \$2,653,541.

Mr. Burns said that the main revenues set a record and compared them with May revenues of previous years: May 2015 - \$274,877; May 2014 - \$195,958; May 2013 - \$179,318; and May 2012 - \$136,041.

The year-to-date operating expenses break down as follows: Operations – 51%, Maintenance – 20%, ADA – 11%, Administration – 10%, Customer Care/Security – 4%, Facilities Maintenance – 2%, and Project Administration – 2%.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANY ACTION THEREON

1. Finance and Executive: Ms. Collins-Lewis

Ms. Collins-Lewis referred the members to the minutes of the committee’s June 11th meeting in their packets. She shared the highlights of the meeting and noted action items would be discussed later in the meeting.

2. Technical, Policies and Practices: Ms. Perkins

Ms. Perkins noted there was no meeting for the month.

3. Audit: Mr. O’Gorman

Mr. O’Gorman noted there was no meeting for the month. CATS is awaiting the final report from LaPorte, and the committee will meet upon its completion.

4. Planning: Mr. Perret

Mr. Perret noted there was no meeting for the month.

Mr. Perret shared that discussions continue surrounding hubs and buses.

5. Community Relations and Reliant Transportation Group representative

There was no meeting for the month.

Mr. Morgan Landry, Reliant’s Baton Rouge Operations Manager, reported that Reliant provided 7,034 completed rides in May, 96% were on-time, the total hours were 4,444, and there were five complaints.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

None.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Katie Guy, bus operator, distributed a letter to the board members that was from Bob Mirabito to the CATS employees. She said the letter was rude.

Mr. Curtis, a rider, said there needed to be schedule changes.

Rev. William King said there were issues that needed to be resolved.

Patsy Brown, bus operator, said there was tension at the agency. She voiced several complaints, including that there was an issue with a paycheck and having someone from Payroll come to the terminal to explain it to her was rude.

Ulysses Walker, bus operator, said there were safety concerns and concerns about the accident review board.

Gloria Brumskill, bus operator, said CATS was having the same problems and that she was disappointed in the board, Ms. Collins-Lewis and Mr. Mirabito.

Jerome Buras wanted to know if board members ever rode the bus.

Elaine Bradford, a rider, said the Baker route was no good.

Al Weeden, bus operator, said there was a bad opinion of CATS among other unions.

Tracy Williams, a rider, said schedules were unrealistic and the customer service representatives “Don’t have a clue.”

Chris Huddleston, bus operator, said the board should serve the people.

Emily Maten, CATS employee, said CATS has lost sight.

Dexter Graham, bus operator, said the salary is a concern.

Juana Smith, a CATS receptionist and former operator, said we all need to come together.

Anthony Johnson, bus operator, said he fears retaliation for speaking.

Ms. Collins-Lewis said everyone must come together.

Father Pat Mascarella, a rider, said there must be perspective and balance. Things are better than they were but not as good as they could be.

Ms. Pierre said she was grateful for all the perspectives being presented.

Dr. Breaux said he was troubled by the perceived lack of respect. He also noted that he has ridden several routes and has not encountered problems.

There were other speakers whose identities could not be discerned from the oral recording of the meeting.

Mr. Honore moved to extend the meeting past 6:30 and Ms. Perkins seconded. The motion carried without objection.

Mr. Honore said he wanted answers to questions asked.

Mr. Brandt noted that he does ride the bus, and chooses a different route each time. He thinks it is a wonderful idea for all board members to ride the bus.

Mr. Mirabito noted that no one at CATS wanted buses that leak or continue to breakdown. However, when the property tax was approved, CATS' fleet had already deteriorated to the point in which most of its buses had passed their useful life and most of the others, the relatively new Blue Birds, were not standing up to transit use and were in very bad condition. He added that we still have to use the old buses to keep service running, while continuing to pay for the Blue Birds we cannot use. He let the public know that CATS is committed to moving forward and noted that there are many passionate people working for the agency.

X. ADJOURN

Mr. Perret moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Collins-Lewis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.