From: Kim Roney <mskimroney@gmail.com>
Sent: 8/16/2018 1:47:04 PM
To: Adam Charnack <charnack@gmail.com>,Edward Johnson <ejohnson1869@gmail.com>,Calvin Allen <ca.allen1973@gmail.com>,Bruce Emory <emory22@charter.net>,Gary Ray <gary.hubert.ray@gmail.com>,Sabrah n'haRaven <wnchomeless@gmail.com>,West, Angi <angi.w
Cc: Elias Mathes <EMathes@ashevillenc.gov>,Janet GeorgeMurr <JGeorgeMurr@ashevillenc.gov>,Dianna Martinez <dmartinez@ashevillenc.gov>
Subject: TC Draft Minutes 17 July 2018
Attachments: 17 July 2018 Minutes.docx.pdf

Adam, Ed, TC Members, and Staff,

Thanks to Adam for years of service, most recently as Chair! I am including you here since your voice is named.Â

The TC minutes are attached and available in their entirety here:

Transit Committee ÂÂ ÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂ Regular Meeting
**Minutes - Draft ÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂÂ

        - Eric: I currently work as a CNA, at TJ Maxx, and at Homewood Suits. Kim was saving grace, always touching base and keeping up. It wasnâ€™t that I wasnâ€™t interested, I was just working.
    - Thomas: Worried about the way it seemed to happen, not the attendance standards. The announcement needs to be clearly communicated.
    - Sabrah: Donâ€™t want to load more onto the Secretary or Staff, whoever would end up doing it, the last year I was on HIAC I had a lot of attendance issues. It wouldâ€™ve helped tremendously to have that on the agenda so I knew. As it stood, I barely squeaked through. Can we also revisit the rules about proxies?
        - Ely: Can ask Sarah.
        - Sabrah: Do we know the rules and are we taking advantage? HIAC has the same rules but uses proxies on a regular basis. If weâ€™re allowed, we should be aware of how to appoint someone to take our place.
    - Adam: Can define policies. Would like to include as many of the members of the public as possible.
    - Bruce: Always been at 3:30, but moved the week. Donâ€™t think moving the meeting to Noon will help the situation. Wonder if weâ€™re actively publicizing the meetings. Used to post at the transit center.
    - Ely: Are posting regular meeting times.
  - Sabrah: Move to switch the time to 3-5 so itâ€™s not conflicting with Council meetings.
    - Dana: For timing, prefer current time for bus scheduling. Itâ€™s easier with work schedules. Wednesday is often a busier day for restaurant jobs, especially at Noon.
  - Adam: Suggest including in retreat agenda.
    - Sabrah: Can consider the conference room schedule at City Hall.

4:03 New Business

- Transit TRC Review and UDO Changes-Attached- Elias/Shannon: wanted to explain process. In packets, typed up explanation of Technical Review Committee. Not a lot we can ask for if itâ€™s not in the UDO. Only time we can require specifics is when thereâ€™s a conditional zoning requirement. For example, hotels are automatic CZ. Smaller developments do not require CZâ€™s, so we can only ask. Shannon is suggest that we need change in the UDO language for proximity to transit, for example, proximity to bus stops could trigger improvements requests. Thereâ€™s a 2-3 year timeline for UDO changes. The Mayor says to consider making suggestion to MMTC for next yearâ€™s budget process. Transit could make UDO change suggestion.
  - Sabrah: Support, but want more in depth information on how to act. The acronym soup guidelines that MMTC has looked at (NACTO), and that there are ones for transit that weâ€™re not using yet.
  - Ely: For example, considering NACTO guidelines for sidewalks.
  - Ed: Would support anything that moves us forward to being able to have more enforcement around bench requirements, etc. Seems like we need action.
  - Thomas: Agree that changes would be public process, and concerns could lead to more feedback.
  - Ed: For example, the Pritchard Park transit pad situation.
  - Adam: Agree as well. As matter of principle, City should be investing in improvements.
  - Gary: Letâ€™s tie this to fabled bus stop at Pritchard Park. If we had the right kind of requirements that weâ€™re talking about in the code, would that have made the process fold out differently, or is it a special case? Trying to ground with what makes sense to me.
  - Ely: That was confusing because it is a hotel. Bringing more developments into conversation that donâ€™t require conditional zoning, like 14-15 unit sub-divisions. We can ask, but they donâ€™t have to build since they donâ€™t require CZ. Change in language would trigger development standards. Donâ€™t have to agree to anything today. Trying to get support for this.
  - Sabrah: If thereâ€™s not a time requirement, could you give us a sample wording?
  - Ely: Itâ€™s in the packet with a list of what could be included.
  - Sabrah: See the sample wording for UDO. Looking for wording that youâ€™d like us to support.
  - Ely: â€œTransit Committee supports overhaul of UDO that would provide/include transit improvementsâ€¦â€ or something like that. Obviously, weâ€™re going to define through the process. Weâ€™re trying to make the public aware and encourage movement on this issue.
  - Adam: Since weâ€™re in approval, we can craft language for sidewalks, transit, etc. General like transit infrastructure language included.
  - Eric: Updates to the transit center included?
  - Adam: More for future developments, like benches for transit.
  - Dana: Would support that definition.
  - Ed: Motion to table while we work on a statement.
  - Sabrah: Support that.
  - Ed: Motion - â€œThe Transit Committee supports an effort by the City of Asheville to examine revisions and enhancements of the UDO to include additional requirements on development projects for bus stop infrastructure in accordance with the City of Asheville 2036 vision.â€
  - Bruce: Include Comp Plan?
  - Sabrah: The 2036 isnâ€™t related to the Comp Plan. The Comp Plan is the pathway and includes positive language on moving Asheville to a place where itâ€™s easy to get around without a car. Seconds the motion.
  - Gary: Reference made to material. Clarifying that itâ€™s in the packet since I missed it.
  - Passes unanimously.

4:24: TC Business

- MMTC Minutes update w/ Bruce: Had our retreat 3 weeks ago and looked at a lot of different projects. Iâ€™ve been out of town. Specific actions on these items will take place in the next year. Consider report back next time with more detail.

4:27 Staff updates

- Incidents at PVA w/ Erick: Children/teens were in the path of the bus, and adults came to move the children. We now have officers set up after multiple incidents.
  - Ely: Incidents with traffic accidents, but most blockages have improved.
  - Sabrah: Has anyone met with Residents Council about these issues?
  - Ely: Yes.
  - Group clarification/question about issue teens had with bus.
- SMAP Funding- Attached w/ Elias: SNAP was primary source of State funding, which had significant cuts across NC. Weâ€™re losing $250k in state funding.Â Hoping that additional ticket sales will help to close gap. Later in the year weâ€™re going to have to evaluate. Encourage you to reach out to State reps to let them know that transit funding is important to you. Cuts due to loss in fuel revenue. In packets, included copy of letter received as well as funding allocation. Nothing we can do other than outreach for revenue increase.
  - Dana: Popular opinion is that City doesnâ€™t care about the bus, and now State doesnâ€™t either.
  - Sabrah: Have public perception problem.
- Operations and Maintenance Update- Elias/ART Staff
  - i. Maintenance- Rolling Stock Report, staffing, progress on maintenance plans w/ Joe: Looking for 2 mechanic helpers and 2 utility people. Once those positions are in place, will expand to 3rd shift for overnight maintenance. Right now, weâ€™re at 64% OTP, mostly due to buses being down. Working on fixing those areas. Communications with the public has improved, but can do better. Still short 9 drivers, so weâ€™re looking to hire those as well. Did have a surprise OSHA visit to transit center and garage with two issues that we need to work on: exit signs and chemical labels.
    - Sabrah: What training is required ahead of time for mechanics?
    - Chris: Basic knowledge of diesel is prefered. AC certification is helpful.
    - Sabrah: The recent flier just had â€œMechanics I, II, and III.â€ Are those positions still open?
    - Chris: positions still open and having another job fair at the end of the month on Tunnel Road with on-the-spot interviews.
    - Erick: not enough room on the flier for all the information.
    - Sabrah: If we have the full information, can spread the word online.
    - LaShawn: Will send details.
    - Sabrah: Hearing about staff being stolen from another company.
    - Erick: Thatâ€™s a pay rate issue.
    - Group conversation on pay and training.
    - Sabrah: Asking about background checks.
    - Joe: Required from past 7 years for all levels; required by RATPDEV.
    - Sabrah: Potential issue with ban-the-box movement in Asheville. If people have served their time, deserve a 2nd chance, not continued punishment. Some people will feel thatâ€™s harsh for low-level positions like utility helpers.
    - Erick: Not every market will have that same local position.
  - ii. Operations- Missed trips, OTP, major service issues or interruptions: Ely - reconfiguring for next month.
    - Joe: We did have a few buses down, so weâ€™ve had a lot of missed trips. Also had a lot of traffic issues.
    - Ely: How many buses in service right now?
    - Joe: Have 2 down of 18 buses. Only need 17 buses to provide service.
    - Gary: Whereâ€™s your comfort level for spares?
    - Joe: Prefer to have none down.
    - Eric: That little white car has been doing miracles filling in.
    - Bruce: Plan to retire buses?
    - Ely: Not going to retire any immediately. Long-term, will need new facility or satellite parking facility for electric buses.
    - Gary: Concerned about mechanic training for electric buses. Does it take more or fewer mechanics for electric fleet?
    - Erick: Will have adequate training with existing staff.
    - Joe: Same number of mechanics needed with same inspection staff.
    - Sabrah: If we have all the buses we need, why are we still seeing routes being cut?
    - Joe: Shortage of drivers and short-term issues.
    - Sabrah: Hate the idea of blaming yaâ€™ll for old buses. What the public wants to know - this contract is supposed to be accountable for missed trips, and whoâ€™s accountable.
    - Joe: Some of it is traffic, which we canâ€™t do anything about. The other issues are with the buses, and it takes time to fix them.
    - Erick: Sometimes maintenance is multi-issue and process. The hybrid buses require bringing in outside help for certain issues. We could get everything approved today, but might not be able to schedule maintenance until next month.
    - Gary: We expanded service in January, and we put more load on our aging system. Weâ€™ll get cool new buses, but weâ€™re caught with our system at the absolute max - perhaps even more than the max. We may have let our eyes get bigger than our buses.
    - Eric: Whatâ€™s the typcial age of buses.
    - Ely: Donâ€™t have the numbers off the top of my head, but we have a lot of old buses. Probable that we shouldnâ€™t have extended to the level we did, but weâ€™re doing what we can. Looking at leasing smaller vehicles. No idea about pricing. Just for a little while, like on the S2 with low capacity, to stretch our fleet until the new buses arrive.
  - iii. Safety & Security- staffing, major accidents or incidents, updates to policies and procedures.
  - iv. General Manager- Operating Data Report (starting in August)

4:47 Future Agenda Items

- Bruce: update that Iâ€™m asking TC members to provide input on maps and updates. Will send out drafts to group.
- Next Yearâ€™s Retreat Date: October 19th, 10:00AM-4:00PM

- Transit Committee meeting with MMTC AUGUST
- Review TMP Implementation Plan- August or September
- Map/Schedule Updates and Design RFP- August
- Swiftly Update- Scott Barnwell- August

4:48 Public Comment:
- none

Adjourned 4:49. Next meeting: August 21st, 3:30pm in Municipal Building.

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Kim Roney - Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
Piano Teacher
Asheville City Multi-Modal Transportation Commission & Transit Committee Member