

**GOLDEN EMPIRE TRANSIT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**JULY 18, 2017
5:30 PM**

**1830 GOLDEN STATE AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301**

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Jim Baldwin
Cindy Parra

Carlos Bello
Evelyn Young Spath

James Hunter

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King
Chris James
Sharon Pierce
Mark Merrifield

Steven Woods
Bruce Seibel
Emery Rendes
Melissa Ash

Candra Cheers
Jill Smith
Ricardo Perez

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael Harless
Abel Calon

Melisa Wolfenstein
Ryan Nielsen

Bob Snoddy

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Hunter led the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION AWARD

Mr. Woods introduced Mr. Ryan Nielsen from Brown, Armstrong Associates LLC and Melissa Ash, Accounting Supervisor. Mr. Woods stated that this award recognizes the dedication and outstanding work of the Finance Department staff: Melissa Ash, Debbie Ockerman, and Sally Martin. Mr. Nielsen commented that the GFOA encourages better, more thorough financial reporting beyond annual audit reporting with the preparation and use of a more comprehensive format and in-depth analysis known as a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, or CAFR. The District was notified by GFOA in July 2017 that the report merited their highest honor,

Excellence in Financial Reporting, and a certificate and plaque commemorating this achievement. This is the fourth year in a row that GET has received this award.

RECOGNITION OF MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE

Mr. James stated that GET has been encouraging the Maintenance Department Technicians to become ASE Transit Bus Certified. He introduced Mark Merrifield, stating that Mr. Merrifield is an “A” Mechanic who has worked for GET since 2001, and is highly respected in the department for his wealth of technical knowledge and mechanical skills. Mr. Merrifield was recognized for completing the necessary requirements to become an ASE Transit Bus Master Mechanic.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Baldwin moved and Director Young Spath seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Harless stated that the detour on Route 21 which is currently stopping at Chester and California Avenue seems to be a better option for riders than the regular bus stop at California Avenue and Eye Street. He suggested keeping the detour. Mr. Harless also asked about the status of bus stops at Cypress Street and Brundage Lane and White Lane and Stine Road.

Abel Carlon commented that he has been a rider for three years. He stated that the music at the Downtown Transit Center today was excellent. Mr. Carlon asked if a petition and/or survey among potential riders would be considered to add service. Currently there is no bus service to Bolthouse Farms.

Melissa Wolfenstein shared several concerns. She commented that there is a need for temporary bus stop signs in construction areas that are clearly marked for riders and drivers. With the high desert climate in Bakersfield, there is a need for benches and shelters at most bus stops. Ms. Wolfenstein also asked about the process used to determine how/when to add stops back to the route after construction ends. Ms. Wolfenstein stated that kneeling or lowering the ramp is not offered by many of the bus drivers.

A written comment submitted by Yvette Iribarne was read into the record by Director Hunter (Attachment A).

Richard Brooks’ written comments were read into the record by Director Hunter (Attachment B).

APPOINTMENT TO AD HOC COMMITTEE

Director Hunter moved and Director Baldwin seconded a motion to appoint Director Hunter and Director Young Spath to the Ad Hoc Committee to design the Board Development Workshop. The motion carried unanimously.

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE GOAL FOR 2018-20

Director Baldwin moved and Director Parra seconded a motion to approve the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Three Year Participation Goal of 0.04%. The motion carried unanimously.

PRELIMINARY FISCAL YEAR END JUNE 2017 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Mr. Woods reviewed the June 2017 financial reports. This was an informational item only.

HIGH SPEED RAIL UPDATE

Ms. King reported that the monthly conference call scheduled for July 11th was postponed until all concerned parties are available. Funding has been budgeted up to 7th Standard Road by the CHSRA; however, there is no early acquisition funding available from CHSRA for GET's property at this time. After some discussion, Director Baldwin suggested that two Board members be appointed to an Ad Hoc Committee to meet with community leaders to review the progress of the CHSRA and its impact on GET. An item will be placed on the next Board agenda for consideration.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Bello thanked staff for the food distribution events that GET participates in at the Downtown Transit Center, commenting that the events are well-run. He asked if the GET food distribution events can be held at other locations.

Director Parra commented that the music at the transit centers was a great idea. Director Parra also shared that Cal Walks provided information for pedestrian safety training. Director Parra asked staff about training drivers received for lowering the wheelchair ramp and/or kneeling the bus.

Director Young Spath stated that CSUB's fall semester will begin in late August and that faculty will be on campus beginning August 21st, and that this week would be a good week for Marketing to have a presence on campus and reach out to faculty and students. CSUB hosts food distributions on campus on the third Monday of every month, and that may also be an opportunity for GET outreach. Director Young Spath stated that with the expansion of Mercy Southwest the three-way traffic signal may be changed to a four-way traffic signal. She also asked that the Board be given an update on the CSUB project in the near future.

Director Baldwin asked about the Virginia Street project and whether it was complete. He also asked for a presentation on how complaints and/or needs are handled.

Director Hunter shared that the next Kern COG meeting will be held on July 20th where a workshop will be presented by Next-Future-Transportation Inc. on Autonomous Transit

Concepts. The next Community Advisory Committee meeting is on Tuesday, July 25th. He noted that Director Young Spath and Director Bello will be attending.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Ms. King reported that the last GET Loud Concert will be at 11 am at the Downtown Transit Center on Wednesday, July 26th. On July 21st, Connie Galan will be celebrating her retirement with a luncheon in the Board room here at GET. Connie has been a coach operator for 28 years. On Monday, July 24th, Deekay Fox will begin as GET's Marketing Manager. She was Marketing Manager with Porterville College.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session at 7:11 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel – [Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)] – Discuss Performance Evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer. The Board returned to open session at 7:55 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Attorney Worth stated that the Board met with legal counsel and staff on the item referenced in the executive session on the Agenda. Mr. Worth stated that no action was taken that requires disclosure under the Brown Act.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Hunter moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of the Board of Directors