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DIRECTOR

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BERRY GRAY
CHAIRMAN

*Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2024*

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met for a regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at the City of Anteroom, 214 N. Center Street, Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Members in attendance: Berry Gray, Chairman; Hiawatha Jones, Vice Chairman; Octavius Murphy, Secretary/Treasurer; Jamie Taylor; and Rob Dingess

Members absent:: Barbara Aycock

Others in attendance: Don C. Willis, Director and Borden Parker, Attorney

Call to Order

Chairman Berry Gray called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM and welcomed Board members. There was a roll call to assure a quorum was present of appointed Board members.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Gray asked the Board members to review and approve the proposed agenda. Hiawatha Jones made a motion to approve the agenda as is. The motion was seconded by Jamie Taylor and received unanimous approvals.

Recognition of Bus Operator of the Year

Each year the GWTA recognizes the bus and van operators of the year. Only drivers who have already been recognized as a driver of the quarter are eligible. GWTA has many excellent representatives who could easily have earned this recognition. The Board recognized the Van Operator of the year, Ed Royal, at the last meeting. This year's Bus Operator of the Year is Chester McClarin. Director introduced Mr. McClarin to the Board as the Bus driver of the year. Director noted Mr. McClarin is well respected by the people we serve, and all of his co-workers. He often receives complements and praise directly to management and supervisors. Mr McClarin has been with GWTA for nearly seven and a half years. Team members recognize he is incredibly reliable and can be counted on to be at work whenever needed. GWTA Board members thanked Mr. McClarin for his service and recognized him for his efforts to provide an excellent service to our customers who need us. Mr. McClarin expressed thankfulness to God for the opportunity to serve the community and to be a safe team member.

Election of Officers

Chairman Gray opened by sharing that his current term appointed by Wayne County ends December 31, 2024. It is possible that another person will be appointed beginning with the January 2025 meeting. The term of Officers runs July through June, and that this could be disruptive. Chairman Gray was asked if he would still be willing to serve, and he stated yes

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with the understanding of what may occur. There was further discussion. Octavius Murphy nominated Berry Gray to continue as Chairman. Jamie Taylor seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, and Chairman Gray was unanimously re-elected.

Chairman Gray opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. Board members asked current Vice-Chair Hiawatha Jones if she was willing to continue to serve, if elected and she agreed she would. Rob Dingess nominated Hiawatha Jones to serve as Vice Chair. Octavius Murphy seconded the nomination. Chairman Gray asked if there were other nominations, and there were none. Board unanimously voted to re-elect Hiawatha Jones as Vice Chairman.

Chairman Gray opened the floor for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. Board members asked current Secretary/Treasurer Octavius Murphy if he was willing to continue to serve, if elected and he agreed he would. Rob Dingess nominated Octavius Murphy to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Hiawatha Jones seconded the nomination. Chairman Gray asked if there were other nominations, and there were none. Board unanimously voted Octavius Murphy to serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

Board discussed and agreed to table the election of the seventh and at-large member to the GWTA Board until the August meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gray requested the Board review and approve the minutes provided. A motion was made by Jamie Taylor to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 20, 2024. Hiawatha Jones seconded the motion. The Board provided unanimous approval of the minutes.

Marketing and Public Relations Update

Director reported providing notices to responding firms of appreciation for their interest in the RFP and also to the successful respondent. Director was notified City Council had approved the new three-year contract (with two 1-year options) with the QCA effective July 1, 2024. Director stated QCA has continued work with GWTA pending receipt of the new contract from the City of Goldsboro.

Director referenced the detailed presentation of customer survey results that was presented last meeting, and that feedback received from the Board would be incorporated for future process improvements. In addition, QCA is completing work to update our ride guides and brochures; to update our social media plan; and also has drafted materials to be used to simplify the process for applying to work at the GWTA.

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Director reported NCDOT has required that each of their grant subrecipients have an appointed Transportation Advisory Board (TAB). The purpose at minimum is to provide staff of the transportation program (GWTA) with feedback from customers, agencies, and other key partners from the community. Representation on the TAB by certain agencies and organizations is required, while others are suggested. The GWTA has a governing board (Board of Directors) which is different than most other transportation programs in the state. As a result the need and purpose for the TAB is different for GWTA. Agency and customer representatives are provided similar information and presentations as what is produced at a typical Board meeting. In

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addition, the agenda and conversation can go more in-depth regarding services provided and more ways GWTA can partner and be supportive in the community. Director noted that the TAB meets on a quarterly schedule, and attendance has suffered during and just after COVID.

Director stated that it is coming time to re-appoint and refresh the membership on the TAB. Director is making contacts with individuals now which meet the requirements and recommendations of the NCDOT. The next scheduled TAB meeting is on September 19, 2024. Director asked for feedback on new appointees and the Board discussed several options. Director stated the goal is for appointments to be proposed at the August meeting.

Training

Director noted that GWTA employees received ADA and Sensitivity refresher training at the June meeting.

Other Items

Director noted that GWTA was able to use the remaining rural ARP recovery funds timely before the end of this fiscal year, as well as some one-time operating funds. These funds allowed GWTA to remain in a strong financial position for the year without need to adjust billing rates. Other grants and reimbursement requests to partners are all expected timely completed. Two replacement vehicles were received at a cost to GWTA of \$229,398.00. Reimbursement of federal and state match was also received as well as local match from Wayne County. Additional replacement vehicles are in production and will be received in FY25. Director has worked with Wayne County and NCDOT to budget forward approved grant funds within their budgets.

Director shared with the Board that there has been emerging discussion with Goldsboro regarding a “pocket park” which is planned at the North East corner of the land leased currently by the GWTA. The City will release an RFQ next week to solicit interest in planning the park. The pocket park is a requirement to be eligible to seek substantial grant funds for the community through the Housing program. Board discussed potential impacts and opportunities created. Board asked Director to further research any potential liability that could result and report back at the August meeting.

Director reported GWTA has been asked to provide support for the upcoming Freedom Fest event on September 7th in Downtown Goldsboro. The event is expected to be particularly large this year due to a free concert. Director reported that GWTA has offered to assist with shuttle services to disabled parking lots for other similar community events in the past.

Director and Octavius Murphy discussed communications with Seymour Johnson AFB staff who want to assist newcomer airmen with learning about transportation options. Director stated he would coordinate to assist in providing information and bus ticket access for this group.

Director reported meeting on June 24th with insurance broker for our workers compensation to approve the final agreement for FY25. The final cost to GWTA for workers compensation insurance was slightly less than last year. Director participated in conference calls on June 28th with both NEMT brokers to discuss service challenges and improvement to our partnerships. Director met with Health Department Director Suzanne LeDoyen on July 3rd to discuss our partnership and opportunities to support the Health Department. Ms LeDoyen indicated she

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would be willing to participate in our quarterly TAB advisory meetings if she was appointed. Director participated in monthly call with NCDHHS Division of Health Benefits staff to discuss Medicaid Transportation challenges on July 3rd. Director participated in monthly virtual meeting with NCDOT on July 10th. Director hosted new represented of ModivCare (NEMT Broker) at the transfer center on July 11th. Director participated in the MPO TCC meeting on July 16th.

Chairman Gray asked if there was any further business. Hearing no further business, Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 10:50am.

Submitted by: Don C. Willis