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DIRECTOR

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BERRY GRAY
CHAIRMAN

***Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2023***

The Board of Directors of Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority met for a regular session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 26, 2023, 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; Gregg Batts, and Robert Dingess

Members absent: Steve Wiggins, Barbara Aycock

Others in attendance: Borden Parker, Don C. Willis

Call to Order

Chairman Berry Gray called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM and welcomed Board members. There was a roll call to assure a quorum was present. Chairman Gray commented to the Board to be mindful of email phishing scams, and noted that a false email went to some Board members from an account claiming to be him, and seeking money for false activities. This has occurred a few times over the years.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Berry Gray requested the Board review and approve the minutes provided. A motion was made by Rob Dingess to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2023. Greg Batts seconded the motion. The Board provided unanimous approval of the minutes.

Director's Report

Director reported NCDOT has announced the approved allocated amounts for rural ROAP grant and urban SMAP grant funding. Division of ROAP grant funds into purposes for elderly and disabled trips, employment related trips and rural public eligible trips was discussed. Director stated that each year the GWTA and also agencies who are able to use the EDTAP funds must operate "in good faith" well into the new fiscal year without knowing the actual amount of available funding. It was noted an action item is later on the agenda for agency use of EDTAP funds. Director also noted the staff continue working on year end close out and preparation of documents for our annual audit.

Marketing Annual Plan Proposed

Director presented and discussed planned outreach and listening session to be held in Mount Olive in January regarding the connector and circulator services. Board provided feedback and support for the event occurring on Saturday January 20th at the Mount Olive Library. Rob Dingess noted GWTA should explore opportunities for partnering with the business community. For example, the University of Mount Olive could be a partner sponsoring the connector and

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2023
Page 2

circulator services, as well as the Mount Olive Pickle plant or Walmart. There was discussion of how these GWTA services also provide a service to these organizations.

Director reported that the second ever GWTA calendar was in production now and will be distributed to the community in December and January. The first calendar was in high demand last year.

Director shared information with the Board regarding an innovative integrated bus stop and bus seat product that could be placed at locations in Goldsboro where riders must wait long times to be picked up. Director noted this new transit amenity could be rolled out along with the “refresh” of all GWTA’s bus stop signage. This signage is showing its age and needs replacement. Board discussed costs for the product. Octavius Murphy stated he would like the new amenities to be placed in the community at areas where there has been demand for seating, such as on Wayne Memorial Drive near Harris Teeter. A motion was made by Rob Dingess to for the purchase of up to six (6) of these products. The first one should be placed on Wayne Memorial Drive near the Harris Teeter grocery store as this has been an area the public has been asking for seating. Greg Batts seconded the motion. There was discussion about hearing feedback on the product from the riders and community before further investment in this transit amenity. The motion passed unanimously.

Rob Dingess asked about incorporation of new technologies to improve GWTA customer services. For example, use of smart cards and other ways to access bus services. Director discussed plans to use this type of technology as an additional software module on our CTS transportation software.

Director noted that the contract for these services through QCA will end on June 30, 2023. Work on an RFP should begin in February and Board feedback will be sought at future meetings. Director facilitates the process with direction from the Board, but does not vote on the successful vendor. The appointed review panel would be determined by the GWTA Board and has in the past included representatives from the Board, from Goldsboro, and also from Wayne County agencies the GWTA serves.

Director recommended continuing the Veterans Ride Free program on the bus for the week of Veterans day, November 6-11, 2023. In addition, for the holidays this year Director recommends again providing “fare free” bus services on the Friday and Saturday (11/24 and 11/25) after Thanksgiving, the Friday and Saturday (12/22 and 12/23) before Christmas, and also the Saturday (12/30) before New Year’s Day. Greg Batts made a motion to approve the fare free services as requested. Octavius Murphy seconded the motion. There was discussion about how the loss in fare revenues will be insignificant compared to the benefits. The motion passed unanimously.

FY24 Agency EDTAP Recommendations

Director presented Board with agency applications for use of EDTAP funds for FY24. It was noted that the requested funds was \$130,000 and exceeded the amount available which is only \$112,857. This is not unusual. Also, that this provides a way to document the need for these grant funds. Director presented Board with recommended funding levels for the agencies, as well

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2023
Page 3

as an amount withheld that GWTA would use to serve eligible individuals who are not associated with these agencies. The recommended amounts are within the allocated funding. Council on Aging will have access to \$25,000. Wayne Opportunity will have access to \$72,000. GWTA will hold access to \$15,857. There was further discussion, including the process for assuring all funds are used timely. Hiawatha Jones made motion to approve the recommendation for use of EDTAP funding presented by the Director. Rob Dingess seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Training

Director noted that GWTA employees received ADA and Wheel Chair Securement refresher training at the October meeting.

Other Items

Director reported on various outreach activities and efforts over the last month.

Chairman Gray asked if there was any further business. Hearing no further business, Chairman Berry Gray adjourned the meeting at 10:53am.

Submitted by: Don C. Willis