

May 8, 2024. Chicago Transit Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

Noticed for 10:00 a.m. Commenced at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA: The posted agenda for the meeting is available at www.transitchicago.com, "Chicago Transit Board", "Meeting Notices, Agendas, and Minutes", (05/08/2024) (Regular Board Meeting), "Agenda".

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lester Barclay at 10:00 a.m.

There was a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL: Directors: Lester L. Barclay (Chairman), Neema Jha, Michele Lee. Director Ortiz was absent at the time the roll was called and Director Bernard Jakes was absent due to a medical necessity.

Secretary Greenlee declared that there was a quorum.

BOARD MATTERS: Chairman Barclay asked whether there were any Board Matters? Secretary Greenlee responded that there was one item on the agenda under Board Matters and that was one item under Board Matters and it was the appointment and setting the salary of Director Roberto Requejo.

Chairman Barclay then took a few minutes to welcome Director Requejo to the Board of the CTA and to introduce Director Requejo to the other members of the Board, CTA leadership and the citizens of Chicago.

Director Requejo thanked Chairman Barclay for his works. He was thankful for the appointment. He believed it was a pleasure and an honor to serve in as a member of the Board. He

Director Neema Jha moved that the Board approve the ordinance fixing the salary for Director Roberto Requejo as a member of the Chicago Transit Board and appointing him to the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Michele Lee. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Director Neema Jha then moved that the Chicago Transit Board Regular Meeting be recessed until called to order following the meeting of the Committee on Finance Audit and Budget. The motion was seconded by Director Lee. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 10:17 a.m.

The Regular Board Meeting of the CTA Transit Board was called back to order at 10:34 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Barclay advanced the agenda to Public Comments. There were two public comments made by Merrill Goozner and Nik Hunder.

Following the public comments there was a discussion about how CTA may more creatively market and incentivize ridership by sponsoring “free fare” days for the public. Chairman Barclay requested that a CTA staff person follow up with Public Commentator Merrill Goozner.

ADA ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT:

Laura Saltzman the Chair of the ADA Advisory Committee and a Senior Policy Analyst for Access Living gave the report on behalf of the ADA Advisory Committee.

The ADA Advisory Committee met on April 8, 2024. They welcomed 3 new committee members:

Giselle Nunez, Lincoln Edwards, and Jada Thompson, bringing the total to 12 members.

In their meeting on April 8, 2024, they discussed:

1. Updates on ASAP and RPM projects.
2. The CTA, CDOT and Trans Systems presented updates on the Damen/Lake Green Line and State/Lake loop.
3. Steve Mascheri, CTA Vice President of Capital Construction, provided information on benches at the Racine-Forest Park Blue Line Station. Laura Saltzman encouraged the CTA to consider providing more benches and reassessing the number of benches at existing stations.
4. Elevators at State & Lake Station: Recognizing that the CTA does not have ultimate control over the State & Lake Project, the committee expressed concerns about having multiple elevator transfers and the complexity it can have for the disability community. Chairperson Saltzman encouraged CTA and the CTA Board to push the issue of minimizing elevator transfers with the City of Chicago and with the Chicago Department of Transportation.
5. The Better Streets for Buses Plan: The ADA Committee expressed concern about the lack of bus priority and bus rapid transit identified in the plan. Realizing that this is not just a CTA issue but will require cooperation from the City of Chicago, the committee encouraged the CTA to get a timeline on when improvements will be made and clarification on the outside obstacles to tangible improvements.

Chairman Barclay thanked Laura Saltzman for the report and stated that the board would be looking into some of the issues raised. Director Roberto Requejo asked what the top three (3) issues for the ADA Committee are. She responded that she wanted to speak with her committee to gain consensus but off the top of her head she thought that they are: (1) signs and wayfinding; (2) elevator accessibility and (3) getting better coordination and follow-up with the Chicago Department of Transportation.

President Barclay pledged that he would reach out to the Commissioner of CDOT in order to help provide better amplification of those issues that the ADA Committee has that are under CDOT's purview.

ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Chairman Barclay invited Jessica Pipersburgh, Chair of the Ethics Committee to make the report on behalf of the committee. She stated that the committee met on April 2, 2024, at which they set the dates for their next three meetings:

- June 25,
- October 1st
- December 3rd

They received the Secretary of the Board's of CTA's report for last year's ethics filings and the CTA Statement of Economic Interest filings for employees and officers for Illinois and the CTA. The committee members completed their CTA Statement of Economic Interests, they received ethics training, and they completed their Open Meetings Act trainings and received certifications. They received drafts of amended rules and regulations of the CTA Ethics Board as well as amended Investigations Processes. They will review them at their next meeting, and they will eventually be forwarded to the full board for implementation.

Chairman Barclay thanked Jessica Pipersburgh and expressed an opinion regarding the importance of the Ethics Committee. There were no questions or discussions regarding the report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Carter presented his report:

- President Dorval Carter reported on some several new and exciting accomplishments:

- April 1, 2024, the CTA rolled out a Chatbot for customers. He hopes it will be an invaluable tool in the years to come and that it will better ascertain feedback from

CTA's customers. The chatbot was created with Google Public Sector. He introduced Elsa Gutierrez, VP of Planning and Lucien Lepiorz, Senior Project Manager for Customer Experience Innovations.

- There were questions and there was discussion following the presentation from members of the Board.
- President Carter then introduced Tom McKone, CTA's Chief Administrative Officer who introduced a presentation that was a joint collaboration between MIT and Argonne National Laboratory entitled, "Mobility, Equity and Economic Impact of Transit in Chicago Region." The presenters were Aymeric Rousseau from Argonne National Laboratory and Jim Aloisi from MIT. The presentation reflected work from an ongoing partnership between the CTA and the two research / educational institutions.

- There were questions and there was discussion following the presentation from the members of the Board.
- Finally, President Carter introduced four (4) CTA employees who represented the agency at the AAPTA 2024 International Bus Rodeo which was held April 26th through April 30, 2024, in Portland, Oregon where competitors show off their skills bus driving, safety and repair scenarios. The CTA Team with four employees (three from Bus Operations and one from Bus Maintenance) competed against a field of 76 bus operators and 46 maintenance teams representing the nations transit systems and finished with a combined score that allowed them to finish 5th in the nation!

- He then introduced the Board to the team – which was a new team:
 - Bus Maintenance: Michael Murray
 - Bus Maintenance: Brian Roman
 - Bus Maintenance: Caesar Cuervo
- Bus Operations: Terrell Dorsey (the longest tenured team member).
- President Carter also recognized the instructors who worked with the competitors: Bob Stucko, Sr. Manager for Bus Maintenance Instruction; Vincent Jenna, Manager of Maintenance Instruction, Michael McBride, Sr. Garage Instruction and Oscar Sanchez, Sr. Garage Instructor and former rodeo competitor.
- President Carter also thanked VP of Bus Operations, Jairo Naranjo – who is a 6time past rodeo competitor himself.
- Following the commendation, the team was invited to take a commemorative photo with the Board.

MINUTES: Chairman Barclay asked for a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes from April 10, 2024. After being moved by Director Jha and seconded by Director Lee, the minutes were approved with five (5) votes in the affirmative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: CTA's General Counsel Kent Ray explained that there would be an Executive Session pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Article 2C, Sections 11, 21 and 29. Director Jha moved that the Board go into Executive Session and Director Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. The Board went into Executive Session at 12:15 p.m.

At approximately 1:35 p.m. the Board came out of the Executive Session. The Chairman of the Board had a prior commitment which caused him to leave the meeting and did not return to the open session.

Director Neema Jha moved that in the absence of the Chair, Director Barclay and the Vice Chair, Director Jakes that Director Rosa Ortiz be appointed the Chair for the balance of the meeting. Director Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Ortiz requested a motion to return to open session, which was moved by Director Jha and seconded by Director Lee. The motion passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES APPROVAL: It was moved by Director Lee and seconded by Director Lee that the Board approve the close session minutes from March 13, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, AUDIT AND BUDGET: The Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee report was presented by Director Neema Jha. The committee reviewed the monthly finance report and approved the April 10, 2024, FAB committee meeting minutes. Director Jha stated that all Committee agenda items, listed on the Board agenda, were presented, reviewed, discussed, and recommended by the Committee, for Board approval. Director Jha stated that all the approved committee items, 5 ordinances and 5 of the 7 contracts, were placed on the omnibus for approval by the Board. The FAB Committee voted to postpone the review of two of the contracts to the full board meeting. Director Jha concluded her report.

Director Ortiz asked for a motion to approve the two contracts number G-1 and G-2 for Technology that were postponed to the full board meeting. Director Lee moved that the contracts be placed on the omnibus for Board approval. It was seconded by Director Jha. The Board voted unanimously by roll call vote to place the contracts on the omnibus.

Director Lee moved that the omnibus be approved, and the motion was seconded by Director Jha. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

All approved May 8, 2024, Board ordinances are available online, at www.transitchicago.com, "Chicago Transit Board", "Board Ordinances", Ordinance numbers 024-054– 024-064.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT: Director Ortiz asked for a motion to postpone the Construction Report to the next meeting. Director Lee moved that the Construction Report be postponed, and the motion was seconded by Director Jha. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS: None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Temporary Chairperson Ortiz asked for a motion to adjourn the May 8, 2024, Chicago Transit Board meeting. After being moved by Director Lee and seconded by Director Jha, the motion was approved with four (4) yes votes and the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

APPROVED: _____


Secretary of the CTA Board of Directors

Date: _____

06/25/2024