



Wednesday, February 17, 2021
Hood River County Transportation District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
224 Wasco Loop, Board Conference Room
Hood River, OR 97031
4:00pm – 5:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Attendees

Board Members: Lara Dunn, Darrell Roberts, Leti Valle Moretti, Megan Ramey, Eleazar Reyes

Public: Teresa Gallucci (Our Team Accounting), Kathy Fitzpatrick (MCEDD), John Andoh, Greg Pack

Staff: Patty Fink, Ty Graves, Amy Schlappi, Troy Webster

Lara called the December Board Meeting to order at 4:03PM. She acknowledged the Wasco and Wasrum, Warm Springs, and Grand Ronde Tribes of the Chinook peoples who lived on these lands for generations. Additionally, she recognized that the Board strives to embody a commitment to cultural equity and reconciliation, ecological conservation, and sustainability.

Approval of Minutes

Lara asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the January 20, 2021 HRCTD Board Meeting. No changes to the minutes were requested. Leti made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Darrell and unanimously approved by the Board.

Introduction of John Andoh

Lara introduced John Andoh the new Assistant Director for Hood River County Transportation District. He will be joining the team in May 2021 and becoming the Executive Director when Patty retires. John briefly introduced himself and provided an overview of his experience. Each Board Member introduced and shared a little bit about themselves.

Public Comment

Lara asked for public comment. Two people provided comment:

Troy Webster who is a driver and representative of the Union approached management staff with other drivers who would like to improve their mental and physical wellness. Troy and the drivers would like to create a gym at work so that they can work out during their breaks. They are looking for financial help from the Board to create a workout facility in a portion of the garage for that is currently unused. The ask is for \$2,500 which would go to the purchase of workout equipment. The Board generally approved and supported the idea but requested more information. Patty suggested that management staff work with drivers to create a more specific proposal with budget information that could be sent and voted on through email by Board Members.



Kathy Fitzpatrick from MCEEDD wanted to commend staff for working closely with the Gorge Native American Collaborative. CAT sent staff out to different outreach events to help sign up Native American community members for vaccination events and transportation to those events. Additionally, CAT has been very supportive of the vaccination effort and removing barriers for people to get their vaccines.

Financial Overview

Teresa reviewed the January financials, by highlighting:

- Revenue is less than budgeted, which is mostly due to Q2 grant reimbursements from ODOT that have not yet been received. Staff is expecting roughly \$250K.
- There is a current net income of \$70K, which is \$35K more than last year at the same time. This is due to a reduction in expenses in general, but mostly in personnel costs.

Patty added that staff had overestimated the amount of fare revenue which was expected at the beginning of the Fiscal Year. The reduction in fare revenue is attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, staff had underestimated the amount of Property Tax revenue and State Payroll Tax. Due to these two things staff believes expected revenue will mostly even out. Staff should have more information at the March Board Meeting as to whether a Supplemental Budget will be necessary. The Board will also discuss Budget Priorities at the next Board Meeting.

There was discussion regarding revenue received and revenue expected by the end of the year.

Resolutions & Action Items

Board Member Application: Amy updated the Board that since the February Board Meeting staff learned that Butch Miller was unable to be on the HRCTD Board because he is a City Councilmember for Cascade Locks and cannot not serve any other elected positions. Greg Pack, General Manager of Mt. Hood Meadows and Odell resident recently reached out to staff about the open Board Member position and submitted his application. The application was emailed to all Board Members before the meeting for review. Since we are so close to the upcoming election if the Board decides to appoint Greg as a Board Member he will need to run in the upcoming election and again in 2023 if he would like to keep his position. Greg introduced himself and explained why he would like to be part of the Board.

Darrell made a motion to appoint Greg Pack as a HRCTD Board Member, the motion was seconded by Leti and unanimously approved by the Board.

Greg was sworn in by Patty by reciting the Oath of Office.

Director's Report

Operations Report: Ty reviewed the January Operations Report, by highlighting:

- There were zero accidents in January, there was a typo in the Operations Report which said there was one.



- The District has moved over to a new dispatching platform that currently does not offer On Time Performance. This feature is being added and should be available by the March Board Meeting.
- Ridership was affected due to weather and senior center lockdowns. Columbia Gorge Express ridership has increased. Staff feels ridership is moving in the right direction albeit slowly.

Gorge-To-Mountain Express Update: Ty updated the Board that the Gorge-To-Mountain Express has been running smoothly and ridership has been increasing.

March & July Service Enhancements: Ty reviewed potential May and July service enhancements by highlighting:

- Service has not yet returned to pre-COVID levels.
- In March, the Upper Valley Route will return to pre-COVID level of service.
- Staff has received requests for the early CGE bus to and from Portland, which depending on demand will begin in July.

GORge Pass Sales Update: Amy discussed the 2021 GORge Pass sales, by highlighting:

- Staff has sold close to twice the amount of youth passes as last year, which is mostly attributed to the Gorge-To-Mountain Express service.
- Staff has sold more Community ID passes this year than last.
- Student passes redeemed are less than last year due to schools being shut down, but staff is working with the school district to ensure increased awareness of the Student Free Fare program.
- There seemed to be some discrepancy in the amount of passes sold being recorded which were paid in cash. All cash was collected appropriately and deposited in the bank – the amount of passes given was just not tallied correctly. The process issue which was causing this was fixed and no issues should occur moving forward.

The LINK Update: Patty updated the Board that the Link does not want to integrate with CAT at this time. Lara, Patty, and Leti are working on sending a letter on behalf of the Board in response to the decision. Patty is requesting a broader conversation with The Link, in an ODOT facilitated meeting to discuss the issues that have been raised.

COVID Update: Patty updated the Board that CAT is helping with the vaccination effort, particularly with minority communities. Staff has partnered with the Hood River County Public Health Department to message that CAT will allow same day DAR reservations to get to vaccination appointments. Most eligible staff have received their first shots and will receive their second shots in the next couple of weeks.

Elections Update: Patty reminded the Board that there are five Board Member positions that will be up for election this summer. If Board Members would like to run for their position in the upcoming election, they need to ensure that they have filed the appropriate paperwork with the County.



Grant Submittals: Patty shared that staff will be submitting four grant proposals on March 4th. Three of the grants are reoccurring Federal and State grants that staff applies for every two years. Additionally, staff is applying for the 5304 planning grant which would help pay for the Transit Master Plan.

Subcommittees: Patty reminded the Board that they created three new committees based on the August Board Retreat. Ty is managing, and staff support for the Operations Committee. Amy is managing, and staff support for the Equity Committee. Patty is managing the Transit Master Plan Committee. Each staff person has begun the process of setting up the first subcommittee meetings and creating By-laws.

Member Topics

City Council Goal Setting: Leti provided a brief update of what happened at the City Council goal setting meeting. Multiple councilmembers asked specifically what city staff would be doing to ensure that bus stops were prioritized moving forward.

City of Hood River TSP Update: Megan let the Board know that the TSP Update will be reviewed by the Planning Commission during the first two March meetings. She will send out the link to the survey so that Board Members can participate.

Budget Committee Members: Amy asked Board Members if they had anyone in mind that they might want to reach out to who would be a good fit for the Budget Committee. Staff is advertising the position through different channels. No potential candidates were suggested.

Patty shared that staff was approached by a community member about HRCTD budget documents. Based on some of those comments staff will be making changes to ensure there is better community access to budget documents.

Patty introduced Frank Thomas who will be the interim ODOT liaison as Jason Kelly has moved on to a new role.

Upcoming Events

The next Board Meeting will be March 17, 2021 at 4PM.

At 5:09 PM Darrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Leti and unanimously approved by the Board.