



Wednesday, September 18th, 2024
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the Hood River County Transportation District

224 Wasco Loop, Board Conference Room
Hood River, OR 97031
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Megan Ramey called the Board of Directors Meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Tiah took roll call: Megan Ramey - Board Vice Chair, Tamra Taylor - Board Secretary/Treasurer, Matt Althoff, Gisela Ayala-Echeverria

Absent: Greg Pack - Board Chair, Meghan Larivee, Eleazar Reyes

Staff: Amy Schlappi, Jeff Acciaioli, Tiah Mayhew, Tim Ravins

Public: Emily Reed (Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance), Kathy Fitzpatrick (Mid-Columbia Economic Development District), **Anne**

3. Approval of Amendment to Agenda

Staff has requested a change to the agenda, they requested adding to agenda item 8.a - Approval of updated Real Estate agreement under Resolution & Action Items and Executive Session per ORS 192.660(2)(e) "To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions."

Motion: Tamra made a motion to approve the addition of items to the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Matt.

Approved by: Megan R., Tamra, Gisela, and Matt

Opposed by: None

4. Approval of August 21st, 2024, Board of Director Meeting Minutes

Megan asked if there were any changes that the Board would like to make to the August meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were included in the Board meeting materials. No changes were requested.

Motion: Matt made a motion to approve the August 21st Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Tamra.

Approved by: Megan R., Tamra, Gisela, and Matt

Opposed by: None



5. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

6. Gorge Transit Pass Presentation – Emily Reed & Kathy Fitzpatrick

Emily and Kathy presented interactive slides highlighting the history and growth of our local transit service and the Gorge Transit Pass. Trivia questions were used to present statistics to support driving less and using transit options. Emily stated that there are upcoming plans and a marketing campaign in the works to continue the growth of the program.

7. Monthly Financial Report – Tiah Mayhew

Financial information for August was included in the Board meeting materials. Tiah added that the audit is moving along well and will be brought to the Board in October or November.

8. Resolution and Action Items – Amy Schlappi

a. Approval of updated Real Estate agreement

CAT is asking for The Board to approve an updated Real Estate Agreement with a 3% commission rate.

Motion: Tamra made a motion to approve the updated Real Estate Agreement. The motion was seconded by Gisela.

Approved by: Megan R., Tamra, Gisela, and Matt

Opposed by: None

9. Operations Manager Report – Jeff Acciaioli

a. Performance Report

The overall safety score is 99. There was 1 harsh event. CAT vehicles were driven 1,301 hours and 43,060 miles with fuel costs of \$14,495 for a cost per mile of \$0.34.

No formal complaints and no vehicle incidents.

Jeff reviewed incidents that occurred in August. A driver cut his finger while cleaning a bus, but the injury was minor, only needing a band-aid. A bus mirror clipped a bus stop sign with no notable damage. A rider wanted to use the ADA lift for a 2-wheel shopping cart, the rider claimed it was a mobility device and dispatch approved the use of the lift. Another rider with an E-bike takes a long time to load and creates delays in service, management spoke with the passenger and came up with a solution. There was also a small wildfire that started in the ODOT right of way just north of the CAT park and ride but it was quickly extinguished.

b. Fall Service Changes Update

Route and schedule updates have been received well by riders. CAT will be adding exterior ski/snowboard racks for the upcoming Gorge-To-Mountain buses. CAT has been selling items on Oregon Surplus.



c. Ridership

August ridership is up compared to last year even with reduced services, the reduced services are due to the removal of The Hood River Connect and Hood River to Cascade Locks routes.

d. Employee of the Month

Curtis Davis has been named CAT's Employee of the Month.

10. Executive Director Report – Amy Schlappi

a. Joint Committee on Transportation Roadshow Update

Amy recently attended the bus tour and roundtable discussion for the Joint Committee on Transportation Roadshow. Her focus was on getting intercity routes like our Columbia Gorge Express to move away from discretionary funds. Overall, the meeting went well and Amy feels like her concerns were heard.

b. Grant Applications Update

Grants have been submitted to fund the Columbia Gorge Express, the upcoming Columbia Gorge Explorer, one expansion bus, three replacement buses, bus stop infrastructure, facility expansion, White Salmon and Dog Mountain seasonal routes, 5311, and 5310 funds.

c. Port of Hood River Interregional Transit Hub Update

Amy has met with Port of Hood River representatives and will use their architects and planning resources to move the project toward the design phase. The facility should include restrooms, informational posters, bike racks, seating, and shelters.

d. Gorge- to- Mountain Express 24/25 Update

External ski racks are being built with the goal of creating more room inside the buses for passengers and less gear inside the bus. CAT has an upcoming meeting with personnel from Meadows to review operational logistics. A meeting with Port of Hood River representatives will also take place to ensure we are clear to use the event site as a bus stop and park-and-ride.

11. Executive Session

ORS 192.660(2)(e) "To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

Motion: Matt made a motion to approve Amy and Board Vice Chair to sign an offer as discussed to move forward with an offer to acquire real property.

Approved by: Megan R., Tamra, Gisela, and Matt

Opposed by: None

12. Discussion Items

No discussion topics.



13. Upcoming Events

The CAT holiday party planning has started and details on the event will be shared with the Board.

14. Adjournment

Motion: Tamra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Gisela.

Approved by: Megan R., Tamra, Gisela, and Matt

Opposed By: None

The Hood River County Transportation District Board of Directors meeting minutes are prepared and presented in summary form. Video recordings of the meetings are on file at CAT and are part of the approved minutes. If you would like to watch the recording of the meeting, please contact Tim Ravins tim@catransit.org, or call (541) 386-4202.

NOTE: Due to technical issues there is no video recording of the September 18th, 2024 Hood River County Transportation District Board of Directors meeting. Video recordings will resume at the next meeting

Prepared by: Tim Ravins, Administrative Assistant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Ravins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Approved by: Tamra Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer