
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
August 11, 2015**

Present

Members: President Allan Pollock, Treasurer Doug Pilant, Cynda Bruce (by phone), Mary Jo Carpenter (by phone), Aaron Deas, Hal Gard, Ron Kilcoyne, Ernie Palmer (by phone), Lisa Scherf, Julie Stephens, Elaine Wells, Janet Wright (by phone)

Guests: Stephan Lashbrook (SMART), Dale Penn (Salem-Keizer Transit), Eileen Collins-Mastell

Staff: Kelly Ross (Western Advocates), Drew Hagedorn (Tonkon Torp)

Meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by President Allan Pollock.

Agenda

Motion by Pilant seconded by Kilcoyne, to approve the agenda. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes

Motion by Stephens, seconded by Gard, to approve the June 9, 2015 Board meeting minutes. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report

Pilant summarized June and July reports. Dues received in 2014-2015 were at an all-time high. No questions or comments from the Board.

Legislative Report

Hagedorn reported that there is a big lull right now with legislators. Big failure of the legislative session was that sustainable transportation initiative never came to fruition, but one very important outcome of the discuss is that key policy makers recognize that any funding package has to include transit. Doesn't believe that there will be any push in the 2016 short session for transportation funding.

Legislature will face several budget pressures in 2017 session, biggest of which will be PERS Supreme Court decision.

The Oregon Transportation Forum will be looking at all these issues and Hagedorn will be the next President.

Much discussion about who's leaving and who's staying in the Legislature--Hagedorn says there is speculation that as many as 15 members will be leaving the House.

Gard said there is a lack of appreciation for the importance of public transportation among rural legislators.

Stephens asked about possibility of something broader than the limited employee payroll tax that was proposed by the “Gang of Eight.” Deas said yes, definite possibility and desire by legislators.

Hagedorn said we should be highly complimentary of “Gang of Eight” – they did amazing work on transportation funding.

Pollock said he had mixed feelings about the transportation funding proposal – glad to see possibility of \$80 million, but displeased to see it focused in such a limited way; seems like we now have the opportunity to take a leadership position to drive the discussion.

Brokerages

No report

Executive Director’s Report

Update on Conference – Ross said that planning is going well and distributed latest schedule. Advised Board that a comedian from Seattle who had made a tentative commitment to perform after the Tuesday evening dinner, but canceled in mid-July. As an alternative, Ross has arranged for Oregon Historical Society Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk to make a light hearted presentation on Oregon history with numerous slides—asked for Board input as to whether they thought this would be okay rather than our traditional performer. Consensus from Board was the most important thing is to have something enjoyable and Tymchuk would be a good speaker.

Board Dinner – Ross asked for input on whether the Sunday evening Board dinner should be on a suite at the Hilton or somewhere offsite. Consensus is that it should be offsite and Kilcoyne suggested the Oregon Electric Station.

Awards – Deas raised question of whether Legislator of the Year Award will be presented and suggested that Sen. Lee Beyer should be recipient.

Motion by Kilcoyne, seconded by Pilant that Senator Lee Beyer be given the Legislator of the Year Award. Motion passed unanimously.

Deas also suggested that it would be appropriate for Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy to receive one of the other awards. Deas and Gard will work on language for special award for Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy.

Bus Roadeo - Collins-Mastell and Ross summarized the status planning for Roadeo; registration will open on August 12th.

Strategic Planning – Ross raised the possibility of a facilitated strategic planning session, perhaps shortly after the first of the year in 2016, to review goals and plans. Consensus of the Board that this should be pursued, but that there should be a separate planning session for legislative strategies. Pollock and Ross to work on planning for the strategic planning session.

ODOT/PTD Report

Gard said OTC met in July and did approve changes for vehicle replacement money. Looking at ways to address funding for vehicle needs.

Pilant commended Jamey Dempster for his constructive approach.

Stephens said Karyn Criswell has also done an excellent job in Region I.

Other Business

Pollock reminded everyone to return evaluation forms for WAI and Tonkon Torp.

Agency Updates

- Pilant (Tillamook Transportation District) – Finished last fiscal year with 6% overall increase in ridership; has been working on an updated transit plan.
- Wells (Ride Connection) – Service ended year up, as was travel training.
- Stephens (City of Sandy) – Ended fiscal year with significantly lower ridership due to a number of factors – fares being charged, lower gas prices, high school moving off route, etc. Looking to add Wifi to route from Sandy to Gresham. Andie has been selected as new General Manager.
- Scherf (City of Corvallis) – Proposal from current contractor for operations was for a 20% increase. Will be working to consider all possible options and may end up in a service cut situation. Ridership is up 4%.
- Deas (TriMet) – Bike and pedestrian traffic opened for the Tillicum Crossing Bridge and attracted over 50,000 people. TriMet Board is discussing a payroll tax increase.
- Kilcoyne (Lane Transit District) – Board also looking at raising payroll tax. Construction for West Eugene EMX is progressing well. Ridership down, mainly due to continued declines in Lane Community College enrollment. Adding service next month in anticipation of payroll tax increase.
- Bruce (Lincoln County Transportation) – At impasse in labor negotiations, will be going to mediation later this month.
- Palmer (Basin Transit Service) – Sent several employees to Gillig factory in Hayward, California. Ridership down 3%, expenses down 4%, fare box revenues up 2%.
- Carpenter (Community Connection of Baker County) – Ended year pretty well with ridership up 7%, and within budget for revenues and expenses. Challenge has been with vehicles that need significant repairs.
- Wright (Columbia County Rider) – Started Portland-Astoria route last weekend.
- Pollock (Salem-Keizer Transit) – Board approved final language for November ballot measure to adopt a payroll tax.
- Lashbrook (City of Wilsonville/SMART) – Invited people to see demonstration of an electric bus on August 25th.

Board gave a round of applause to Stephens for all her years of service.

Meeting adjourned at 11:39am.