

# Minutes of Museum of Bus Transportation Board of Directors

7 PM May 22, 2018

## Board Members In attendance

Don Barlup  
Doug Campbell  
John Dockendorf  
Ed Lacey  
Dino Mandros  
Dave Millhouser  
Howard Nice  
John Oakman  
David Schmidt  
Mark Szyperski  
Angel Tollens  
Ed Wolf

## Advisers In attendance

Michael Burshtin  
Walter Earl  
Ralph Fetrow  
Ken McNelis  
Becky Tollens  
Bob Smith

Jeff Bliemeister

Chairman Dave Schmidt opened the meeting at 7PM, and Secretary Dave Millhouser declared that a quorum was present.

Dino Mandros moved that we approve minutes of last meeting, John Dockendorf seconded.

## **AACA Museum Executive Director Report** Jeff Bliemeister

They are doing very well, with a number of events successfully concluded. The NAAM meeting was very successful, and he invited us to their upcoming Annual Museum CARnival Car Show and Fathers Day Event June 16 and 17 respectively.

**Chairman's Report** Dave Schmidt took the opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have been working hard to get us ready for the Spring Fling. A lot of folks have put in many hours, and it is appreciated.

**Treasurers Report** Ed indicated that we we transferred \$10,000in investments to cover negative cash flow. Revenue is down a bit (perhaps, in part attributable to fewer new Life Members. Howard Nice has resolved PayPal issues and that money is now available. As of May 15 we have taken in more than \$6500 for Spring Fling... very good.

The Harry Bleise Foundation has given us an additional \$12,000 and Ed Wolf suggested we make him a Life member. Don Barlup moved that we do so, Dino Mandros seconded and motion passed. We had a bill for \$1,100 for last years Annual Meeting and a \$2,500 bill for repainting of wall behind Timeline.

Don Barlup moved that we accept the report, Dino Mandros seconded and motion passed.

**Curator's Report** Bob Smith and Angel Tollens. Things are going very well overall, and planning for new configuration of coaches and the Annual Meeting event are in the works. Several logistical hiccups re the Spring Fling and an event that the AACA Museum has planned were discussed, and between Bob, Angel and Jeff Bliemeister they are being resolved.

Bob also inquired about possibility of installing track lighting on north end of our display area

Angel Tollens indicated planning for the Freedom Riders Exhibit is well under way.

**Gift Shop Report** John Dockendorf indicated that revenue is down about \$500 from last year this time, and he attributes it, in part, to our needing better merchandise. He is working on that, and Jeff Bliemeister mentioned that the car museum revenue is down too... so the amount of traffic in the store may be part of the reason.

**Finance Committee** Ed Wolf pointed out that there was nothing to add to the Treasurers Report information.

**Fleet Committee** John Oakman reported that Ken McNelis and his crew of volunteers have done an outstanding job of prepping both the fleet and the Annex for Fling.

The Krapf bus is being decalced and should be ready for Fling and the Proterra Electric bus being donated by Proterra is likely to be there too.

We have a shortage of tires for vehicles, Ed Wolf was able to obtain 4, but we need more, and John is working on it.

John will prepare a list of fleet "needs" for Dave Schmidt and we will try and find sources.

Ken McNelis reported that our Baltimore transit bus is running and will be on the "pad" for Fling

**Events Committee** Becky Tollens reports everything is on track for a "best ever" Fling... 63 hotel rooms sold, 32 Vendor tables, 43 VIP packages sold and at least 40 visiting buses (near double our best previous)

Pray for good weather....

**Marketing Committee Report** Mark Szyperski

Website has been completely updated from the March Meeting to show minutes, the Wotring Resolution, and the Mission Statement, and other documents that were written and resolved, including 1-3-and 5 year plan.

Spoke with Lisa. She is willing and able to write a grant request for the Freedom Rider's Exhibit. She will not charge more than \$1000.00, and it may be less. I move to request approval for her to spend up to \$1000.00 for first grant request. This will help set the stage for further requests in the future.

Dave Millhouser moved we spend no more than \$1,000 with her for grant applications Angel Tollens seconded, motion passed.

Spring Fling has been promoted in various State Associations as well as Bus and Motorcoach News, and National Bus Trader. I will be contacting local press in this next week with press releases and the ability to meet with me on Thursday or Friday before Spring Fling, next week.

Larry from National Bus Trader is going to give us a page for free to promote membership when he has nothing to fill a page. We will place a one page membership application on the page, with pictures and information on the Museum

Spring Newsletter should have been received by hard copy and/or electronic version as of last week or sooner. The "Bus Musings Minute" video shows on the website, and on Facebook reached over 2700 people.

Mark Watson is not here but submitted following Facebook report

"These stats as of 10:15 PM Monday night: Several posts, especially videos from recent work sessions and from this past weekend's Friends of NJ Transit Heritage open house received high numbers of views, one of the NJ videos received 1218 views and 7 shares. 1,033 views and 4 shares for the Flxible mobile command. Work session videos that received high numbers include the engine of the Passaic Valley Prevost, 1634 views, and 11 shares, Michael Hepler starting the Peter Pan MC8 2068 views and 12 shares, Ralph Ciccone driving the 52 Beaver out of the annex got 1043 views and 7 shares. The post with photos from Angel & Becky's visit to MCI got 1214 views and 4 shares, the visit to ABC 961 views and 4 shares. Most posts with any kind of Eagle bus tend to get well over 500 views. Several positive comments for these posts.

I feel this has helped not only to generate more interest in Spring Fling but more awareness of the museum, based on the number of shares to other bus group Facebook pages. I'm sure once we start promoting the Annual Meeting after Spring Fling could end up with attendance equal to or greater than the meeting a few years back with the Lehrer's. Last week I posted a save the date reminder for the annual meeting and noted the date change of November 3rd.

Looking forward to what is shaping up to be the best Spring Fling yet. I'll be arriving late Wednesday night and look forward to seeing you when I arrive."

**Donations Committee** Dino Mandros

We got shipment of memorabilia from Larry Schiller which we are evaluating

## **Industry Relations** John Oakman

Re-assessing relationships with vendors

## **New Facility** Don Barlup

Need fund raising to even consider facility, the difficulty is that we can't pick a location without funding, and it is difficult to fund raise without a specific goal.

## **Old Business**

Nothing was discussed

## **New Business**

Interpreting the AACA Museum Resolution.

Dave Schmidt stressed, several times during the meeting that our perception is that MBT and AACA Museum have historically behaved like partners, helping each other when necessary, and that is the tenor we hope for in the future. We were aware of the term of the lease, but were a bit surprised by the sudden action on the AACA Car Museums part, and wondered about the motivation, rather than the content.

Per Ed Lacey they want to negotiate a new lease agreement to take effect when current lease expires in 2023. Ed indicated that the motion that the AACA Museum passed and the letter they sent to MBT was self explanatory, in that our lease expires in about 5 years and needs to be renegotiated.

MBT Board discussion centered around why they chose to officially notify us now, but when we began discussing how to begin negotiating, Mr. Lacey pointed out that during the next 5 years all sorts of conditions could change. Working on renewal would be premature.

Dave Schmidt will prepare a letter designating who represents MBT on various aspects... and asking others to go through them, rather than going direct...which has been confusing to AACA Museum in past

Dave will also try to arrange a meeting between their Executive Committee and ours to clarify things.

Intern project has stalled, because schools haven't been getting back to us... continue to explore.

Important Dates for 2018:

- June 1-2                Spring Fling
- July 17                Board Meeting
- September 18        Board Meeting

- November 3      Annual Meeting
- November 20    Board Meeting