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MPTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

July 29, 2021

**Minutes 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM**

**BOARD AGENDA**

**8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

1. Call to Order – 8:31 A.M.
2. **Roll Call**

Margaret Donahoe

Sherry Munyon

Alan Herrmann

Ryan Daniel

Daryn Toso

Matt Fyten

Joanne Brackey

LuAnn Bleiler

Nick Lemmer

Ted Nelson

Tiffany Collins

Kendra Kotzer

Brenda Brittin

1. Additions or Changes to the Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Nick Lemmer Second: Ted Nelson

Motion passed.

**Old Business**

1. Approval of June 3, 2021 Minutes (Attachment)

Motion to approve: Nick Lemmer Second: Daryn Toso

Motion passed.

**New Business**

1. Legislative Update **– Sherry Munyon**

* Sherry informed everyone that there wasn’t anything to report at the state level.
* At the federal level, MPTA continues to work on passage of language that would eliminate the 14 – cent per mile reimbursement rate for volunteer drivers. Yesterday a formal request was made at a MCOTA meeting that the organization support the effort at the federal level. Dawn Simonson with the Volunteer Driver Coalition sent a letter to Tim Henkel and several testified in favor of giving the lead to MCOTA.

1. Advocacy Update – **Margaret Donahoe**

* The US Senate is working on an infrastructure package that includes a $39 billion dollar increase in transit funding. A vote was passed to start the process and allow debate on the bill. 17 Republicans voted in favor of the motion.
* Congress will be leaving for the August recess soon.
* The Fly-In Registration is open and this year is crucial to go for the opportunity to talk to the congressional members about the volunteer driver issue.
* Margaret suggested having regional meetings this Fall around the state. She stressed the importance to be able to talk face-to-face and discuss the systems, what’s happening, and other issues. October will be the main focus so we have time to get organized.
* She noted that during a discussion with OTAT staff the issue of modifying the five-year plans was talked about as well as other long-range planning that should be analyzed post-covid. We need to reevaluate what is needed for transit. It was suggested to show changes from the five-year plan from the original while making adjustments.

1. Program Coordinator – **Kendra Kotzer**

Roadeo: Overall went very well. Participants and guests were very happy to be back in person again.

* There were 26 driver participants.
* Great photos were taken and uploaded for use.
* Drivers gave great feedback, only concern was not knowing the size of the bus prior.

Conference: Registration is open for both sponsors/vendors and attendees.

* A survey got sent out yesterday for award nominations.
* So far there are 35 vendors or sponsors registered for the ‘expo’ which is almost $45,000 and 11 participants registered which is another roughly $2,000.

In-Transit Newsletter is finished and will be sent out by the end of the week.

1. President’s Update – **Ryan Daniel**

* Ryan summarized the meeting with MNDOT. The department is in the process of drafting a report that will be available tentatively March of 2022. OTAT’s goal with the management analysis division is to clarify what is considered ‘unmet needs’.
* Sherry expressed her confusion on why OTAT needs a third party on what their legislative obligations are.
* Ryan reported that DVS is currently booked out 6 months. There was no language in the bill about expanding third party testing. Ryan mentioned there is an opportunity for third parties to test each other’s systems. They’re in the process of looking for another exam place in Fergus Falls. Tiffany stated there will be changes coming in February.
* Ryan stated there were three vacancies on the MPTA board that will be further discussed in the annual meeting. He proposes the date of September 7th to know who will be joining the Board.
* September 3rd is the cutoff date for the MPTA Awards.
* Ryan proposed moving the Board meeting back to in-person next year.

1. Financial Report – **LuAnn Bleiler**

* LuAnn stated most people in the system paid their dues, the Roadeo brought in a cash flow, and we will have more information in the next few months about the Conference finances.

Motion to approve the financial report: Nick Lemmer Second: Tiffany Collins.

Motion Approved.

1. MCOTA Update – **Tiffany Collins**

* The MCOTA meeting took place yesterday. They are looking to take some legislation to the federal level. The main goal is getting the federal mileage reimbursement to be the same as the business rate. There was a motion made.
* They set a new date for the senior leadership meeting that was supposed to be held in June, it is now set to October 1st, 2021. It is undetermined if it is virtual or in person.

1. Events 2021

* Transit Conference – October 4-6, Duluth
* Joint Conference – 2023
  + Where? Other than LaCrosse or Duluth. Madison, Rochester, Fargo, Eau Clarie?
  + Margaret stated that the Wisconsin people are very interested.
  + The challenge is finding a big enough facility that’s not too far.

1. Next Meeting – August 26, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.
2. Other Business
3. Adjourned – 10:05 a.m.