

MINUTES
STARTRAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
StarTran Conference Room 2
March 28, 2013

Members Present: Kim Phelps, Mike DeKalb, Don Herz, Linda Carter, Stephen Speicher

Members Absent: John Baylor, Beatty Brasch

Staff Present: Mike Weston, Brian Praeuner, Scott Tharnish, Glenn Knust, Kitty Elliott,
Connie Thoreson

I. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Chairman Mike DeKalb noted the Open Meetings Act and Patron Conduct Notice posted on the north wall.

A. Patrons to be Heard

None

B. Review/Action Items

- February 28, 2013 StarTran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – A motion for approval was voiced by Mr. Phelps and seconded by Ms. Carter. The 2/28/13 StarTran Advisory Board Minutes were approved 5-0 (Speicher, Phelps, Carter, DeKalb, and Herz all voted “aye”).

C. Operations Report

- Mr. Weston noted from the Board Report, UNL ridership is up 36.7% month to month and 15.9% year-to-date, due to the new expanded service.
- Mr. Weston indicated paid ridership has increased 1.9% year-to-date.
- Mr. Weston mentioned the update to Houck advertising summary in the Board Report. There are increasing numbers of shelters sold for advertising.
- Mr. Weston noted that Transit Manager interviews and tours were scheduled for March 29, 2013.

Mr. DeKalb presented a letter for the Board to review and forward on to recently retired Transit Manager Larry Worth. The Board agreed to distribute the letter which expressed appreciation and thanks to Mr. Worth for his 18 years of outstanding leadership as Transit Manager of StarTran. (letter attached)

Glenn Knust addressed an email that was received from Board Member, John Baylor with regard to the cost of WiFi on StarTran buses. Mr. Knust stated the per bus charge would be \$250 with a \$39/mo maintenance fee, which would be approximately \$25,000 to equip the entire fleet and ongoing annual \$36,000. It was mentioned that WiFi was tested on one bus in the past, however, it didn't work well. *The Board suggested a question be placed on a survey as to whether patrons would utilize WiFi on the bus.*

Mr. Phelps asked Scott Tharnish to review StarTran budget status. Mr. Tharnish indicated that expenses are usual and there are no concerning shortfalls at this time.

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B. Review/Action Items (continued)

- Ms. Elliott asked the Board to vote in favor of the Big Red Express Season Pass price to be \$60 and child fare for this service be \$5 round trip. In answer to a question for a Child Season Pass to be implemented, StarTran staff indicated child attendance is generally low, therefore a child season pass will not be pursued at this time. Mr. Herz made a motion in favor of the Big Red Season Pass price to be set at \$60, which was seconded by Mr. Phelps. The motion passed 5-0 (Carter, Speicher, Phelps, DeKalb, and Herz all voted “aye”). Ms. Carter made a motion for Big Red Child Fare to be \$5 round trip, and Mr. Herz seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 (Carter, Speicher, Phelps, DeKalb, and Herz all voted “aye”).

D. Other Business

- Mr. Knust indicated that a Google Trip Planner is being tested by staff and as soon as any bugs are worked out, there will be a public announcement and it will be made available.
- Mr. Phelps indicated he has heard no negative feedback with regard to the UNL expanded service that StarTran is now operating. *Mr. Phelps suggested a patron survey of the UNL service in order to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible. Mr. Phelps inquired as to if University and StarTran staff may indicate to the public the mobile applications availability with a disclaimer stating StarTran is not responsible for the application updates and/or general maintenance. Mr. Knust will make an inquiry to the City Law department in this regard.*
- Mr. Phelps thanked Connie Thoreson for her years of serving as secretary to the StarTran Advisory Board. Ms. Elliott indicated that StarTran staff also appreciated Ms. Thoreson’s efforts.

E. Patrons to be Heard

None

F. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2013, 8:00 a.m. in the StarTran Conference Room #2.



**CITY OF LINCOLN
NEBRASKA**

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March 28, 2013

Re: Your Retirement from StarTran

Mr. Larry Worth:

The StarTran Advisory Board would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and thanks for your 18 years of outstanding leadership as Transit Manager of the City of Lincoln bus service, known as StarTran. You successfully built one of the most cost effective, efficient, and green municipal bus systems in the nation.

For your efforts with StarTran to make the best bus system this City could have within the limits of policy and budgets, we thank you.

Enjoy a well deserved rest and retirement!

For the StarTran Advisory Board,

Mike DeKalb
Chair

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