

MINUTES
STARTRAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
StarTran Conference Room 2
January 30, 2014

Members Present: Don Herz, Jenni Lesoing-Lucs, Linda Carter, Stephen Speicher,
Janet Goodman-Banks

Members Absent: Mike DeKalb

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

I. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Due to the absence of Chairman DeKalb, Vice Chair Don Herz opened the meeting, noting the Open Meetings Act and Patron Conduct Notice posted on the north wall.

A. Patrons to be Heard

None

B. Review/Action Items

- **December 12, 2013 StarTran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes** - A motion for approval was made by Ms. Lesoing-Lucs and seconded by Ms. Carter to approve the 12/12/13 minutes as submitted. The 12/12/13 StarTran Advisory Board Minutes were approved 4-0 (Lesoing-Lucs, Carter, Speicher, and Herz all voted "aye").
- **Star Pass** – Kitty Elliott reviewed the Star Pass, noting that it is for youth ages 5-18 during the months of June, July, and August and requested approval for the pass to be sold for \$15. She noted that many day care centers and agencies with youth programs purchase the Star Pass for their clients to utilize for field trips, etc. during the summer months. There are also several sponsors offering discounts to the Star Pass holders.

Mr. Speicher moved approval for the Star Pass to be sold for \$15, and Ms. Lesoing-Lucs seconded the motion. The vote for the Star Pass to be sold for \$15 was unanimously approved 4-0. (Lesoing-Lucs, Carter, Speicher, and Herz all voted "aye").

Mike Davis introduced new StarTran Advisory Board Member, Janet Goodman-Banks, noting her patronage of StarTran services and familiarity with StarTran routes and drivers as an asset for Advisory Board input and recommendations. The other Board Members introduced themselves.

Mr. Davis also introduced Ryan Kacirek, a StarTran Planning Intern and Lonshelle Hamre, the Bus Operator Union Steward.

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- **St Patty's Day Service** – StarTran will operate a temporary service on Saturday, March 15, 2014, in conjunction with St Patrick's Day parties held at many downtown establishments. The service will be operated from 8:00 p.m. through 2:00 a.m. with reservations required and will be on a space available basis. This service is part of a "Safe Ride Home Program", in collaboration with Lincoln cab companies. Advertisements for this service will include the Lincoln cab companies.

Mike Weston is addressing the logistics of this service, in which the City will be divided into identifiable Zones for patrons to discern which bus to utilize. Fares will be the same as regular route service; cash \$1.75 each way or any StarTran pass can be utilized as well. Services will be operated with HandiVans in the Zones, and 30' buses will be utilized on the downtown circulator portion. Schedules for the services will be distributed to downtown establishments and will be in the Journal Star. The downtown portion of the route will cost 25¢.

Mr. Davis is looking to operate similar service for New Year's Eve festivities, and possibly Halloween. The need will be assessed after the St Patrick's Day service is evaluated.

Board members asked about safety and security concerns, in which Mr. Weston noted that a StarTran Supervisor would be on duty during the hours of operation, in order for bus operators to report concerns.

It was also mentioned that Ames, Iowa and Manhattan, Kansas operate similar evening services.

A report on the outcome of the St Patrick's Day service will be presented to the Board before moving forward with other similar services.

Ms. Lesoing-Lucs made a motion to approve the St Patrick's Day service, and was seconded by Mr. Speicher. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion (Lesoing-Lucs, Carter, Speicher, Goodman-Banks, and Herz all voted "aye").

C. Operations Report

- **Onboard Survey Results** – Brian Praeuner presented the executive summary of the onboard survey results, per the handout. He noted that approximately 1,000 surveys were distributed with 565 being returned. These results will be used to better StarTran services and will be key in the Transit Development Plan later this year.
- **Sub-Committee Appointments** – There are two sub-committees; Marketing and Operations. Appointments to these committees are: Linda Carter, Mike DeKalb, and Janet Goodman-Banks for the Marketing; and Don Herz, Jenni Lesoing-Lucs, and Jason Hellsbusch (new member effective 2/3/14) for the Operations.

D. Other Business

Mr. Herz asked for the StarTran budget timeline and what is expected from the Advisory Board in this regard. Scott Tharnish said that the budget instructions have been received and StarTran will be preparing to meet expectations. StarTran staff will first meet with the Public Works Director, then the Finance Department, and finally the Mayor, presenting budget recommendations. Generally the Mayor makes the entire budget public in July. Upon the Mayor's release of the budget, the StarTran Advisory Board will hold a Public Hearing on any issues directly related to StarTran with regard to service changes or fares, and after this input, the Board will determine a recommendation to be presented to the City Council, before the City Council Public Hearing in August, 2014.

Mr. Davis commented that the fare structure would be evaluated as part of the budget process, in order to make them more consistent across the board.

Mr. Davis noted that in the Taking Charge Survey, transit was one of the top priorities, in answer to Mr. Speicher's inquiry of how transit fits into the overall City priorities. Mr. Speicher suggested that a value be placed on bus routes in order that City officials are aware of their worth.

Mr. Davis mentioned his ongoing presentations, and discussions with DLA, Kiwanis Club, LIBA, etc. in order for their feedback to be taken into consideration and to better inform them of our goals.

E. Patrons to be Heard

None

G. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2014, 8:00 a.m. in the StarTran Conference Room #2.