

NATA Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2016

7:30-9:00am

Adams County Economic Development, 12200 Pecos Street, Westminster

Welcome by Chair Randy Ahrens and introductions.

NATA Members (who signed in)

Barry Gore	ACED	Phil Greenwald	Longmont Staff
Steve O'Doriso	Adams Cty Commission	Angela Habben	Metro North Chamber
Erik Hansen	Adams Cty Commission	Joyce Downing	Northglenn Mayor
Lynn Baca	Brighton City Council	Brook Svoboda	Northglenn Staff
Christopher Montoya	Brighton Staff	Will Drier	SCMN
Randy Ahrens	Broomfield Mayor	Catherine Sanders	SCMN
Rick Teter	Commerce City Council	Eric Montoya	Thornton City Council
Maria D'Andrea	Commerce City Staff	Kevin Forgett	Thornton Staff
Mark Gruber	Erie Trustee	Kent Moorman	Thornton Staff
Will Lindsey	Federal Heights Staff	Shannon Bird	Westminster Council
Daniel Dick	Federal Heights Mayor	Herb Atchison	Westminster Mayor
Steve Stanish	Frederick Staff	Debra Baskett	Westminster Staff
Jeff Moore	Longmont City Council	Jeanne Shreve	Adams County Staff

SCMN Members (who signed in)

Chan Nguyen	HDR
Gina McAfee	HDR
Myron Hora	WSP/PB

Agency Partners (who signed in)

Lisa Trujillo	RTD
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Guests (who signed in)

Kevin Maddoux	FHU
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Approval of October 27, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve made by Mayor Atchison, seconded by Mayor Dick, and approved unanimously.

SCMN Update – DISCUSSION ITEM: 2017 Budget Requests – Commissioner Hansen, Chair of Smart Commute

Commissioner Hansen: Karen is currently out of the country and unable to be here. As the chair of Smart Commute, we sent a letter to NATA that was discussed at SPC regarding the administrative support and member due increases.

Early on, Smart Commute and Karen provided support to NATA pro-bono. A few years ago, NATA decided to pay an administrative fee. We're now at the point where we understand the work load that Karen and her staff do for NATA. We are asking for an increase in the NATA administrative fee. It is a substantial fee increase – from \$6,000 to \$19,800 and change. The reason she was able to do administrative work pro-bono early on was there was a subsidy through Adams County. Subsidies from Adams County in the first year were \$50,000. After the first year, this subsidy decreased to \$20,000, and has been discontinued the last two years. Now we are coming to NATA to increase the administrative fee for the work that Karen and her staff do to support NATA.

We will also be asking for a membership dues increase in 2017. Our individual memberships are increasing from \$100 to \$250, and our business memberships are increasing from \$1,500 to \$2,000. All NATA member jurisdictions are members of Smart Commute because of their membership in NATA. In 2017, we're asking for an increase from all our members. We want to make sure that Smart Commute is sustainable moving forward. The grants we receive from CDOT and RTD are delayed pay (60-90 days until payment arrives). We accrue expenses waiting for payment. There are also grants that require a 20% match. We are asking for increases to better manage the cash flow and provide some funds to be used for local match for grants. This membership dues increase is from \$6K to \$12K.

NATA currently has \$81,000 in its account. This won't place a burden on NATA, NATA's budget is continuing to grow. Does anyone from the Smart Commute board want to add anything, or are there any questions?

Discussion:

Mayor Downing: I concur – there is a lot of work that the staff does. The Smart Commute board has discussed how to meet the payroll. Some staff has to wait to be paid. An increase in funding from NATA is a reasonable request.

Mayor Ahrens: We looked at these requests in SPC. We talked about listing out the duties that will be executed by Smart Commute. SPC recognizes the work that Smart Commute is doing. We have \$81,000 in our NATA account just sitting there.

Commissioner O'Doriso: A lot of the money Smart Commute needs is cash-on-hand, "starter money" while the grants provide reimbursement. If there is \$81,000, isn't this a good use of this liquid cash?

Commissioner Hansen: Kudos to Karen – she has done a lot to keep this afloat. Karen is an independent contractor, which means she has to pay her own social security and other expenses herself. And, she doesn't pay herself until every other bill has been paid. She's giving a lot to this organization on a personal level.

Mayor Pro Tem Gruber: Can we use NATA money as an up-front loan?

Commissioner Hansen: we're looking at an increase instead of a loan at this point.

Mayor Pro Tem Gruber: Could we evaluate an up-front loan in addition?

Commissioner Hansen: We could discuss that idea. We've thought about that idea in the past, we should discuss at our board.

Mayor Pro Tem Gruber: We should discuss the idea of an up-front loan.

Mayor Ahrens: That sounds like something we can investigate.

Commissioner Hansen: We haven't done this because we didn't want to think about NATA as a bank. We need to determine next year how we do a match for these grants.

Councilwoman Baca: There has been a lot of time – we should have SPC discuss what they want to do with this money. We need to look at lobbying efforts, and other efforts, not just increasing Smart Commute funding and paying for a few events. We need to be transparent and use the funding in a planned way to accomplish our objectives. I'm for supporting Smart Commute as well, but we need to think about all the ways to use this money.

Mayor Dick: I'm uncomfortable knowing how hard Karen works that she has to hold her checks. We need to address this problem.

Approval of Smart Commute Administrative Funding Increase and Membership Increase: Motion to approve made by Mayor Atchison, seconded by Mayor Downing, and approved unanimously.

Election of 2017 NATA Board Officers

Discussion:

Mayor Ahrens: We established a plan of succession last year, and as a result, Mayor Atchison will be Chair, and I will be Immediate Past Chair. Councilwoman Lynn Baca is interested in Vice Chair. Are there any other nominations from floor? (No nominations voiced).

Commissioner Hansen: I call to close nominations on the floor.

Approval of Councilwoman Lynn Baca as Vice Chair. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hansen, seconded by Mayor Downing, and approved unanimously.

Discussion:

Mayor Ahrens: Now we have Treasurer to elect. Councilman Eric Montoya has expressed interest. Are there any other nominations from the floor? (No nominations voiced).

Mayor Atchison: I call to close nominations on the floor.

Approval of Councilman Eric Montoya as Treasurer. Motion to approve by Mayor Atchison, seconded Jeff Moore, and approved unanimously.

Discussion:

Mayor Ahrens: There is a time commitment to serving in the Executive Committee, we really appreciate these folks for stepping up and committing to this.

REVISIT ACTION ITEM: Letter to RTD Regarding Mobility Choice Blueprint and follow up

Mayor Atchison: We've been discussing Mobility Choice Blueprint with a lot of organizations about our letter. RTD saw the draft letter in today's packet, and have no objection to it. They are waiting for their new board to be seated, and will bring Mobility Choice Blueprint back to the floor. Don Hunt and Jim Gunning are still determining the final recommendation, including the board membership and how they are representing the metro area on their board. DROCG has committed \$500K, CDOT committed \$500K, and RTD is expected to commit this same amount. Nothing is moving forward until RTD commits funds. We're hoping soon after the first of the year that this will return for discussion, and that we'll have a decision. RTD has had a lot of financial challenges, but we want them to do this in partnership. In the event that RTD does not commit funds, it will be up to different organizations to fund this.

The letter in today's packet is the one that SPC supported. RTD Director Larry Hoy reviewed the letter and supported it. We're expecting to see Mobility Choice Blueprint after the first of the year to hear what they have been doing. That will be in your regular NATA communications.

Discussion:

Mayor Ahrens: A comment from the SPC meeting is a concern about the completion of FasTracks; there was a concern that the completion of FasTracks would be jeopardized. Earlier this morning, someone mentioned to me that, based on the timing, there could potentially be new innovations in technology than what the original FasTracks plan anticipated. But I don't know how you'd express this in a letter at this point. We feel like we've received the short end of the stick in funding for FasTracks. We do want to make sure we're included.

Mayor Atchison: We're trying to forge an equal representation on the board. We want to make sure there isn't just one part of the metro represented on the board. We do need representation on the Mobility Choice Blueprint board.

Mayor Pro Tem Gruber: Should this be in the letter that we sent to RTD?

Mayor Atchison: The letter we're discussing today is only for RTD. RTD isn't the right party for that concern. Mobility Choice Blueprint is the right entity for us to ask that question.

Commissioner Hansen: I think we need to send a letter to Mobility Choice Blueprint. But, I think this is a "pay to play" scenario. I think they are expecting to have a financial commitment. We might need to make a financial commitment to have board representation. We might need to consider this. They are a new organization, and they are trying to raise money. Just to note, they were started by a chamber, and chambers also run on a pay-too-play model.

Barry Gore: Does RTD have the money? We've been to a lot of financial meetings with RTD over the past few months, and hearing about their financial situation.

Mayor Ahrens: That was the concern of the board, that RTD doesn't have the money. We've seen the presentations; RTD is short of funds. That is the message we've had from RTD.

Barry Gore: I'll leave it up to their board to make that decision. It's hard to consider a study, when there are so many unfunded and incomplete projects.

Mayor Ahrens: I think it depends upon how the contribution is made. Can time, in-lieu funding work? Does it need to be money? We don't know that yet.

Approval to send the drafted letter to the RTD Board regarding Mobility Choice Blueprint. Motion to approve by Mayor Atchison, seconded Mayor Pro Tem Gruber, and approved unanimously.

Mayor Atchison: I think that Mark's suggestion with Mobility Choice Blueprint is good, but there isn't anything to comment on in a letter yet. We should get the presentation from them, and then maybe consider writing a letter to them following their presentation.

Mayor Pro Tem Gruber: RTD's concern is that another group might force them to go in a direction they don't want to go. But this is about a paradigm shift.

Mayor Atchison: RTD has to understand that buying equipment and making investments based on the last 50 years isn't going to work anymore. We need RTD to change, and need to change the direction of their board. That is what this is about.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01am.