

JULY 12, 2023. Chicago Transit Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

Noticed for 10:00 AM. Commenced at 10:26 AM.

AGENDA: The posted agenda for the meeting is available at www.transitchicago.com, "Chicago Transit Board", "Meeting Notices, Agendas, and Minutes", (7/12/2023) (Regular Board Meeting), "Agenda".

ROLL CALL: Directors: Lester L. Barclay (Chairman), Bernard Jakes, Neema Jha, Johnny Miller, Rosa Ortiz. Director Michele Lee was absent. There was a quorum with five (5) members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were four public comments. Bill Morton; Trudy Leong and Pat Gibbons appearing in person. John Paul Jones submitted a public comment in writing for distribution to the Transit Board Directors.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Carter presented his report which began with the commendations of two CTA employees. Nicole Johnson, a rapid transit operator, working out of the Howard Terminal was recognized for stopping the train she was operating on June 13, 2023, to avoid contact with a man on the tracks. Her attentiveness and swift action helped save the life of the person on the tracks and prevented the train's passengers from injuries.

President Carter also commended Brandon Burica, a CTA bus operator for acts of bravery and courage he displayed on April 15, 2023, when an unruly crowd of 100 to 200 persons overwhelmed his bus, sprayed an irritant through his window and threatened the safety of the sole female passenger on his bus. Mr. Burica did not engage the crowd and stood between them and the female passenger until the situation was clear. He was applauded for his bravery and professionalism.

Following the commendations several members of the CTA Transit Board also commended Nicole Johnson and Brandon Burica for being heroes and expressed concern regarding their welfare and their emotional wellbeing.

President Carter also reported that CTA is hosting 225 One Summer Chicago interns this year which is the largest class of high schoolers that CTA has ever hosted as a part of the program. He introduced Geisha Ester, the Vice President of Training and Workforce Development, to address the Board and provide background on the wonderful program. Vice-President Ester made a presentation giving a detailed overview of One Summer Chicago and introduced Eric Danso, a One Summer Chicago intern who was working with CTA for the second summer to share his experiences with the Board.

Following the presentation Chairman Barclay and several of the Transit Board members commended Geisha Ester and gave words of encouragement to Eric Danso.

President Carter also reported the following:

1. He highlighted the work that CTA is doing to grow the CTA workforce. There have been several hiring events and an on-site job fair will be held at Malcolm X College on August 25, 2023.
2. There is a slow, but steady increase in ridership, adjusting for seasonal activity like students going on summer break. May 2023 was the best month for ridership since the pandemic.
3. He also touted the Meeting the Moment scorecard which he described as having grown into an indispensable tool as a part of the overall CTA action plan. He introduced Tom McKone, the CTA's Chief Administrative Officer to provide an overview of the CTA's new interactive performance metrics dashboard which will allow users to engage with useful information to see performance on their rail and bus routes. Director Jha remarked that the performance metrics dashboard is "really, really well done."
4. The CTA has been awarded a \$25 million dollar grant by the Department of Transportation's RAISE discretionary grant program which will be used to further electric bus operation expansion at 95th Street Dan Ryan Terminal. He stated that the CTA is grateful to the Biden Harris administration for funding, particularly since the dollars will be targeted for use on the south side of Chicago.
5. Next, President Carter welcomed the new Citizens Advisory Board which recently met and will be appointed by the Transit Board. The Citizens Advisory Board will advise the Transit Board and provide valuable feedback regarding CTA issues, service and policies.
6. Finally, President Carter provided the Board with a snapshot update on the improvements that CTA is making in the first phase of the Forest Park branch rebuild project which is a multi-year, multi-phase investment program that will allow CTA to reconstruct the entire Forest Park branch of the Blue Line and make it 100 percent accessible.

Chairman Barclay responded to President Carter's report and noted the following:

1. The CTA is almost at the end of the first year of Meeting the Moment and the Board is appreciative of the progress that the team has made. A lot of information has been provided, and the scorecard has made the CTA transparent before all of Chicago. It has revealed what we're doing good and where we could be doing better.
2. The CTA has a lot of work ahead of us to get to our pre-pandemic levels of service, but Chairman Barclay thinks we are moving in the right direction.
3. Finally, Chairman Barclay, followed by Director Miller, thanked President Carter for his report.

MINUTES: Chairman Barclay asked for a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of June 16, 2023. After being moved by Director Ortiz and seconded by Director Jha, the minutes were approved with five votes in the affirmative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Barclay confirmed with Kent Ray, the CTA General Counsel, that there was no Executive Session on the agenda.

BOARD MATTERS: Secretary Greenlee advised Chairman Barclay that there was one (1) Board Matter on the agenda. She stated that the Board Matter was to approve an ordinance designating Sisavanh Baker as the Chicago Transit Authority's Ethics Officer and designating Kent Ray as Interim Ethics Officer.

Director Ortiz moved to approve an ordinance designating Sisavanh Baker as the Chicago Transit Authority's Ethics Officer. Director Jha seconded the motion. The motion passed with five yes votes.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, AUDIT AND BUDGET: The Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee interim chair Director Jakes presented the report. The committee reviewed the monthly Finance report and approved the June 16, 2023, FAB committee minutes. Director Jakes stated that all Committee agenda items, listed on the Board agenda, were presented, reviewed, discussed, and recommended by the Committee, for Board approval. Director Jakes stated that all the approved committee items, 5 ordinances and 10 contracts, were placed on the omnibus for approval by the Board. Director Jakes concluded his report.

Chairman Barclay asked for a motion to approve the omnibus as stated by Director Jakes.

After being moved by Director Ortiz and seconded by Director Jha, the motion was approved with five yes votes.

CTA General Counsel Kent Ray then advised Chairman Barclay that the Board needed to have a separate motion to approve the recommendation from the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee to approve the Amazon locker location license agreement. It was moved by Director Ortiz and seconded by Director Miller. Director Neema Jha recused herself from the vote due to conflict of interest. The motion passed with four (4) yes votes.

All approved July 12, 2023, Board ordinances are available online, at www.transitchicago.com, "Chicago Transit Board", "Board Ordinances", Ordinance numbers 023-074 - 023-087.

CONSTRUCTION REPORT: The Construction Report was presented and can be found at: <https://www.transitchicago.com/board/presentations/>.

Following the Construction Report, Chairman Barclay acknowledged two (2) Public Commentators who arrived late and invited them to make remarks. Secretary Greenlee invited Bill Morton to speak and following his comments, invited Trudy Leong to speak.

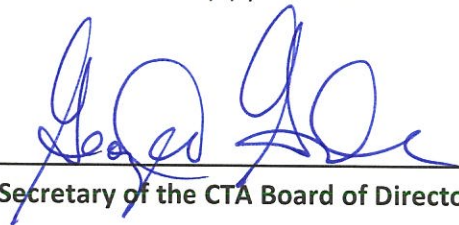
Bill Morton advised that he is the President of the Rogers Park Chamber of Commerce and expressed concern about the Jarvis and Morse Red Line Stations and ADA accessibility. He implored the CTA to make finding a funding formula to make the appropriate ADA accommodations a priority. Trudy Leong introduced herself as the administrator of the Rogers Park Chamber of Commerce and stated that she is concerned about parking at the Howard Red Line. She stated that there are issues of the infrastructure crumbling. She was not certain whether Gateway Centre complex was responsible for the structure or whether the CTA was responsible.

Director Jakes made two inquires of the public commentators and Chairman Barclay thanked them and advised that their comments would be passed on to the President's Office.

NEW BUSINESS: None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chairman Barclay asked for a motion to adjourn the July 12, 2023, Chicago Transit Board meeting. After being moved by Director Ortiz and seconded by Director Jha, the motion was approved with five (5) yes votes and the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

APPROVED:


Secretary of the CTA Board of Directors

Date:

08/29/2023