

MINUTES
KENOSHA TRANSIT COMMISSION
October 17, 2011

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM

Roll Call

Commissioners DeVuyst, Faelak, Haugaard, Heim, Herr, and Prozanski were present.

Motion by Comm. Heim, seconded by Comm. Faelak to approve the minutes of September 19, 2011. Unanimous -

1. Review and Discuss Proposed Service Change

Mr. Iwen reported that we have had to take a look at severe cuts. These are not due to the City of Kenosha, the Aldermen or the Transit Commissioners. Saturday service is our least productive day; it is 60% less than any other day. We have more people that rely on Monday through Friday. We did take a look at fare increases, but we would have to double all fares and that would not even be enough. All Transit properties in the state are facing cuts.

Chairman Haugaard said that no action will be taken tonight and that there is no reduction in City funding, just State and Federal funding is being cut.

Comm. Herr said he thinks the Airport budget should be cut and not Transit. Mr. Iwen said that across the board all budgets were cut.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment on Service Change

See attached list of public comments.

Mr. Iwen said that we are losing one driver position by not filling an open position; not one current driver will lose their job with this change. Also, the farebox numbers come from an operator card that is filled out by the drivers and our fareboxes. A one-half sales tax option for the RTA was shot down by the Governor and that was going to help fund transit. We need \$500,000 to offset the funding shortage—it is a huge number. We do realize that everyone we transport needs our service; that is why we are looking at ridership on Saturday.

Mr. Iwen said that it is State and Federal funding that is being cut. Make calls to your State Representatives and the Governor and ask them to give us the aid we need.

As to the Streetcar, we have an annual ridership of 55,000; January, February and March service has been cut; the fare was raised to \$1.00 last January and there are two Aldermen appointed to our Transit Commission for advice to everyone here.

3. Metra Station Restaurant Update

Dimitri Giannakopoulos was present and said that they have been running the train station at a cost of \$15-\$20,000 per month and keep having to put money into the business. Right now they are \$12,000 in the hole—cannot even pay the rent this month. They have tried lots of different kinds of advertising. It seems that the people are just not there.

4. KRM Distribution of Funding

Mr. Iwen reported that there is a \$15 million pot of money. Milwaukee was going to get all of that but we were offered \$1.6 million for 5 new buses. We didn't get anything from the State of Good Repair grant, but Racine received \$5 million from that grant and they are trying to get another \$1.6 million to give us. If we get that funding we can get another 5 new buses.

5. Other Matters of Interest

Mr. Iwen asked what should we do about collecting the money that Sparti's owes us. Chairman Haugaard said that we should contact the Legal Department on it.

Citizens Comments – None

Commissioner Comments - None

Date of Next Meeting: Public Hearing on November 1, 2011

Motion by Comm. Faelak, seconded by Comm. Heim to adjourn at 5:45 PM.
Unanimous -