



RECORDED

**PUBLIC NOTICE of a Special Board Meeting
Of the Mountain Rides Transportation Authority Board of Directors**

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 1:00pm

Ketchum City Hall Council Chambers, 480 East Ave N, Ketchum, ID 83340

Board Members of the Mountain Rides Transportation Authority met in a Special Meeting in the Ketchum City Hall Meeting Room, Ketchum, Idaho.

PRESENT: Chair Kristin Derrig (Ketchum), Vice-chair Grant Gager (Ketchum), Mark Gilbert (Sun Valley), Jim Finch (Hailey), Dave Patrie (Blaine County) and Tom Blanchard (Bellevue)

NOT PRESENT: Secretary Tory Canfield (at-large), Michelle Griffith (Sun Valley)

**ALSO PRESENT: Mountain Rides Interim Executive Director Ben Varner
Mountain Rides Business Manager Tucker Van Law
Mountain Rides Operations Manager Mike Knudson
Mountain Rides Support Specialist Kim MacPherson
Mountain Rides Bicycle Pedestrian Program Coordinator Michael David
Peter Jensen, Idaho Mountain Express
Wally Morgus
Chuck Williamson, SVEA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kristin Derrig called to order the meeting of Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 1:00pm. Dave Patrie took roll and determined that a quorum was present.

2. Consent Agenda:

a. *Approve scheduled staff travel for 2018*

Mark Gilbert would like to add Wally Morgus attending the CTAA conference in June to the staff travel list.

Ben Varner suggested that he would be able to get RTAP funds for travel.

Grant Gager asked about economies for the two travel plans to New Flyer in July and October.

Ben Varner said he is sending Murray Walsh to the training but will look at combining if possible.

Mark Gilbert made a motion to approve staff travel for 2018 with the addition to add Wally Morgus going to CTAA. Dave Patrie seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

b. *Approve Interim Executive Director's expense report*

Dave Patrie made a motion to approve the Interim Executive Director's expense report for March 2018 as presented. Tom Blanchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Action and Discussion items

a. **Action item:**

Approve amendments to 2018 MRTA Service Plan

Ben Varner said we historically approve a service plan in October going into a budget year but we had some funding issues and had to revisit summer routes this spring including the low Red

Route ridership. Staff is requesting to the board to authorize staff to update the Valley routes with timing adjustments.

Ben Varner said he visited Ketchum City Council Monday night with the Ketchum circulator to run Friday/Saturday nights and asked about adding Tuesday night and possibly 7 nights/week. The mayor has asked staff to bring a budget amendment to the council in the first agenda in May.

Mark Gilbert asked about the council and their thoughts about this route.

Grant Gager said the council liked the route and half the members were in favor of 7 nights/week.

Jim Finch spoke about marketing and suggested the schedule should start at Main & 4th stop at Sturtevant's. Jim suggested possible names for the route: Bus Appetit, Chuckwagon, and Ketchum Cruiser.

Tom Blanchard asked about a marketing plan.

Ben Varner said we will do a lot of grass roots marketing and will have about \$1600 available.

Dave Patrie suggested Chuckwagon as a name for the Elkhorn Red Route.

Ben Varner said the Red Route will be a 30-minute service running 5:15-10:15pm and will run meet the Blue Route in Elkhorn Springs to go to Ketchum.

Chuck Williamson from SVEA said they will help promote the service.

Kim MacPherson said we will still have service from Elkhorn to the symphony.

Jim Finch suggested that riders will be able to transfer to the Blue Route to go to the symphony.

For Ketchum Circulator names, Michael David suggested the "downtowner" and Ben Varner suggested the "uptowner."

Mark Gilbert made a motion to approve MRTA FY2018 service plan with the following changes: with respect to the Ketchum Circulator, staff recommendation for service on Friday and Saturday nights be approved with the addition to the extent funded by the City of Ketchum. Dave Patrie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Discussion item:

Update on Electric bus and associated infrastructure

Ben Varner said that ITD is programming our \$500,000 Low-No bid for the electric bus and will have a detailed report in 60 days. We have run into some issues with an available power supply in Bellevue. We are looking at a possible partnership with Idaho Power and hoping to have buses by 2021. We are looking at total capacity in the City of Ketchum and Bellevue and is still in early development stages. Today there is not enough capacity in the City of Bellevue to charge an electric bus.

New Flyer will be bringing an electric bus on Thursday, April 5th and will be bringing their own charger. We will put the bus on route from Sun Valley to Bellevue on Friday.

Ben Varner said that the cost to have 2 buses and construction costs could be about 2 million dollars. We will need to combine several grants and continuing to look for more grants to make this happen.

Ben Varner said he can see the commuter vans being plugged in in the near future.

c. Discussion item:

Update on Ketchum Transportation Center

Ben Varner said that there have very preliminary discussions about a location for a multi-modal center. Our hub is really at Main & 4th where several buses come together. There have been suggestions to make a very big crosswalk on Hwy 75 at 4th St to make it more pedestrian friendly. We would also need to get ITD approval.

Jim Finch said that Mountain Rides is getting pressure from Sturtevant's to move that bus stop.

Ben Varner said that all the routes that run in the north valley will use this spot except for Silver and Bronze.

Michael David said ITD would look favorably upon the changes proposed especially when it comes to safety.

Grant Gager commended staff for the creativity with this idea to move forward.
Dave Patrie wanted to be on the record in favor of the Washington Ave spot.
Michael David suggested that we need to tell the public how this will improve transfers in the system.
Jim Finch likes the idea because it doesn't deviate the two main routes of our service, Valley and Blue routes. It improves traffic flow and is clean and puts Mountain Rides in the middle of Main St. for more visibility.

4. **2:20pm Dave Patrie made a motion to enter into Executive Session per Idaho Code §74-206(1)(a), to discuss personnel (Hiring). Jim Finch seconded.**
Roll call: Kristin Derrig aye, Grant Gager aye, Mark Gilbert aye, Jim Finch aye, Dave Patrie aye and Tom Blanchard aye.

2:45pm The board was back in session

5. **Action item:**

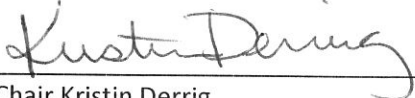
Personnel matter arising as a result of Executive Session

Mark Gilbert made a motion to appoint Wally Morgus to the position of Executive Director and to allow the chair of the board to sign his offer letter. Tom Blanchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The group welcomed Wally Morgus.

6. **Adjournment**

Tom Blanchard moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:49pm. Jim Finch seconded and the motion carried unanimously.


Chair Kristin Derrig