

## CITY OF PORTAGE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of Meeting December 1, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:34 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Diane Durian (excused), Effie Kokkinos (aye), Ray LaPoint (aye) Elma (Pat) Maye (arrived 6:36), Nadeem Mirza (aye), Edward Morgan (excused), Sandra Sheppard (aye), Fiorella Spalvieri (aye), Amanda Woodin (aye), Lindy Nebiolo (aye), Youth Representative. Motion made by Mirza and supported by Spalvieri to excuse Durian and Morgan. Motion passed 6-0.

**CITIZENS PRESENT:** Bill Lenehan, Sean McBride

**STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Spalvieri moved and Mirza supported approval of the November 3, 2016 minutes. Motion passed 6-0.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation Kalamazoo County Transit Authority – Sean McBride: McBride provided an overview of public transit services provided by Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) the county-wide authority that operated the Metro County Connect (MCC) and the community service vans, and Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) which operates the Metro Transit system within the urbanized areas. Information included: ridership numbers, data on the new extended hours and Sunday services, plans to expand the number of shelters, amenities, and technology, and funding. The overall system continues to expand even as fixed route numbers drop slightly (fixed route ridership follows national gas price trends and increases or decreases trend with gas price increases and decreases). Board members asked several questions which McBride answered, including: In response to a question about the competition of Uber, McBride indicated that MCC was not in competition with them because the MCC service was fully accessible, riders had comfort in knowing the driver, and had the established reputation of Metro. With regard to fares for the MCC, McBride stated that it depended on the rider as some fall under Federal laws that restrict the cost to twice the rate of the fixed route system. For other riders, the cost is \$12 and they have found that their fares are a good balance between providing the direct connect service and not having demand be more than they can service. MCC is always trying to enhance ridership experience, make it easier to ride the bus, receive bus information, and expand their base service by partnering with area businesses. But, the MCC service is always available to anyone in the county. Additional hybrids will not be purchased due to funding limitations. However, the technology in diesel buses has improved to the point that they are very efficient and cost effective. CCTA is looking into incorporating Park & Rides into the bus system and may start a pilot program to test the need for bus stops at these locations. McBride closed by stating that on October 1<sup>st</sup> the public transit system became an independent authority separate from the City of Kalamazoo.
2. Kalamazoo Transit Authority LAC update - Maye: Maye did not attend the November meeting as she now has a conflict and can no longer attend the LAC meetings. Woodin will represent the city at future meetings.

3. Human Services Board April meeting: A discussion was had to move the April 6<sup>th</sup> Human Services Board meeting and public hearing to March 30<sup>th</sup>. As no one present had a conflict and the Board ready to move, the items was included in the agenda and Maye moved and Mirza supported the date change. Motion passed 7-0.

**STATEMENT OF CITIZENS:** There were no statements of citizens.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mirza moved and Maye supported adjournment at 7:15. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Money, Neighborhood Program Specialist

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