



**Topeka Metro
Board of Directors Minutes
November 18, 2024**

BOARD MEMBER'S NAME	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT / ABSENT / EXCUSED
Candis Stiles, Vice Chair	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Alan Bearman	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Rodd Miller	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Fátima Pérez Luthi	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Beverly Hall	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Scott Tummons, Chair	Topeka Metro	Absent

Staff/Visitors	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT / ABSENT / EXCUSED
Bob Nugent, General Manager	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Richard Appelhanz, Chief Financial Officer	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Keri Renner, Director of Marketing and Communications/Board Secretary	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
John Cassidy, Legal Counsel	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Terri Miller, Director of Human Resources	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Jessica Moberly, Director of Planning	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Jared Culbertson, Director of Information Technology	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Alan Parrish, Director of Maintenance & Facilities	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Denise Ensley, Chief Operations Officer	Topeka Metro	Present via Zoom
Andy Fry	WSP Topeka	Present QSS
Nick Lloyd	Washburn Student Govt. Assn.	Present QSS
Dante Jordan	Washburn Student Govt. Assn.	Present QSS
Mike Evans	public	Present QSS


TOPIC	KEY DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDED ACTION / STATUS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.	5 of 6 members present	Alan Bearman
Meeting Minutes	October 21, 2024, meeting minutes submitted.	MOTION: Rodd Miller moved, and Fátima Pérez Luthi seconded, to accept the September meeting minutes. Motion approved 5-0.	Alan Bearman
Public Comment	<p>Nicholas Lloyd and Dante Johnson from Washburn Student Government Association came to the meeting to see what Topeka Metro is about and had a few questions. 1) Students have been using Ride Smart with Lyft which is a huge expense for WU students. Could MOD serve the university to ease expenses for students? 2) WSGA would be interested in having the Topeka Metro buses going into the campus to pick up students.</p> <p>Mike Evans apologized to the board members for his behavior last month at the Oct. board meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Robert Perez, Topeka City Manager, and Braxton Copley, Assistant Topeka City Manger</p>	<p>Dr. Bearman told them that MOD is not the same as Lyft or Uber, and there have been concerns about the pavement with buses driving through campus. Dr. Bearman asked Nick and Dante to make an appointment with him for a conversation regarding these two issues.</p> <p>Dr. Bearman told Mr. Evans that we have discussed this before. The board listened to Mr. Evans' concerns and thanked him for his input.</p> <p>Dr. Robert Perez addressed the board to inquire about expanding the Microtransit MOD (Metro On-Demand) system. He acknowledged that he had spoken to Bob Nugent about this previously. His goal is to strengthen the relationship and collaborate with Topeka Metro. Dr. Perez realizes that there are budget constraints and wants to</p>	Alan Bearman

		<p>work to find revenue sources. He did mention trying to raise the mill levy for Topeka Metro for this. Braxton Copley said that a pilot program can be created and it either could stay with Metro or be in the private market. Rodd Miller, TMTA board member shared some of the past issues we have had with “pilot programs.” Before MOD, we partnered with a private taxi company to do the NETO/SOTO initiative with JEDO. JEDO paid for rides to the employer and employee paid \$5 a ride. It was a three-year tiered system and most of the employers dropped out. The MOD program was set up for the board to see if there would be a decline in ridership in the area, which might get rid of a route. We do want to make the service better, but MOD costs can be very expensive to operate.</p> <p>Dr. Perez asked if we doubled or tripled what would it cost? He said he understands that Metro has not had a mill levy increase for a number of years, but folks want to have that discussion. Bob Nugent asked if the board is ok with having a discussion with the city. The board agreed to that.</p>	
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Department Reports			
Planning Report	Jessica had nothing to add to the planning report.		Jessica Moberly
Operations Report	Denise had nothing to add to the operations report.		Denise Ensley
Maintenance Report	Alan had nothing to add to the maintenance report.		Alan Parrish
Finance Report	Richard had nothing to add to the finance report.	MOTION: Rodd Miller moved, and Candis Stiles seconded, to accept the financial reports for October 31, 2024. Motion approved 5-0.	Richard Appelhanz
Bylaws	<p>John said that he will create a draft with revisions for the next study session for board members to review. John stated that there are some points that may need discussion.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suggestion that board officers are to be elected every two years, not every year. 2. A policy to have board members show their face and speak to vote or comment when virtually attending a meeting. 3. There needs to be clarification as to what constitutes an excused absence. 4. A better understanding of diversity. 5. Should the Board seek to bring names to the city council for vote? 6. Should the Board term expire on their end date, which means the board member doesn't continue until a new board member is approved? 7. Should proxies be allowed, and if so, should they be item by item and very specifically written? 8. The two provisions to appoint a board secretary and board treasurer and general manager and legal counsel. 		John Cassidy

<p>Security</p>	<p>9. Any public member commenting at a board meeting has three minutes to speak.</p> <p>Bob spoke to the board regarding security at the QSS – people hanging around – camping at night on the benches – we’ve been dealing with some problems with the homeless. Some of our frustrations are police officers having shifts that don’t align and turnover with the hired security service. In response, we decided to hire a security officer who will be employed by Topeka Metro to work full-time.</p> <p>We are creating signage such as DO NOT ENTER signs, and ALL CITY ORDINANCES ENFORCED ON THIS PROPERTY. We are working with camera systems as well.</p>		<p>Bob Nugent</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>		<p>Candis Stiles moved to adjourn the meeting, and Fátima Pérez Luthi seconded. The motion passed 5-0.</p>	<p>Alan Bearman</p>

Respectfully Submitted –



Keri Renner, Topeka Metro Board Secretary