

Minutes of the Metropolitan Taxicab Commission Board Meeting
Thursday, October 2, 2003
9:00 a.m., in the Auditorium at 100 North Tucker Boulevard

Call to order at 9:20 a.m. by Chairman Tom McCarthy
(no Roll Call was conducted; however, present were Commissioners McCarthy, Hamilton, Bennett, Harris, McNutt, Morgan, Rudawsky and Satz. Not present: Commissioner Tadesse.)

Chairman McCarthy stated he will entertain a motion to designate Director Tully as having authority to approve the Payroll for MTC staff, and having expenditure authority to the amount of \$300. Motion was made by Dave McNutt, seconded by Basil Rudawsky.

Chairman explained that normally, approval of the previous meeting's Minutes is done at this time; due to the impending move of MTC to its permanent site this material is currently boxed and inaccessible – this action will be deferred until next month. Chairman will make a motion to waive reading of the Minutes (of the August 8 and September 11, 2003 meetings).
Motion was made by Chairman McCarthy, seconded by Dave McNutt.

Chairman's announcements:

- Mike Morgan will be the Treasurer, and Dave McNutt the Secretary, of this Commission.
- Any Commissioner is invited to put an item of interest/concern on the Agenda by contacting Director Tully or Judith Cannon; this can be done up to 10 days prior to the meeting date. The Chairman will review the proposed Agenda items one week prior to the meeting, so as to identify and resolve any conflicts and possibly to defer items which require investigation or documentation before the Commission members can consider/discuss them.
- Recently, the City of St. Louis has seen fit to allow a new concealed weapons statute. I for one do not want to see weapons carried into meetings – I suggest that we adopt a policy against doing so, and post it before our next meeting date. I will present it to the Commission for adoption at that time. Today, Sgt. Sampson is in attendance as security. I do not believe the MTC has the authority to override this, but I will consult with the Attorney General in this regard. I will now make the motion that the Commission authorizes the chairman to make inquiry from the Attorney General in this regard. Motion was made by Chairman McCarthy, seconded by Dave McNutt.

Director's Report by D. Michael Tully

1. Displayed and then passed around a license plate which was developed for the two staff cars of the MTC.
2. Enumerated licenses issued to vehicles and drivers since our last meeting on September 11. At last month's meeting, it was stated that 50 Airport taxi licenses had been issued; Tully was asked to clarify that, and has determined that half of those were issued to new drivers, the other half was for license transfers.
3. From August 31 to October 1, MTC has collected nearly \$65,000 in fees; accounts receivable total approximately \$30,000.

4. Disciplinary matters: We had 3 suspensions, one revocation. Our principal hearing officer has been hired, and we also have chosen a second hearing officer.

5. Two vehicles were "red-tagged."

6. Investigations:

a. Health transport services – Tully and an enforcement agent examined 3 companies – they have 200 vehicles combined, but none of those is licensed by the MTC.

b. Board of Education – Last month a question arose whether the number of drivers is adequate and whether a sufficient number of cabs is licensed. Tully went to the School Board and had all their files pulled, then checked all the licenses. Confirmed they also maintained all Department of Revenue records which reflected the driving history for all their licensed drivers. Tully is satisfied that all is in order for their operation.

c. A complaint of Airport drivers "stealing fares" by using scanners. Tully sent one of the enforcement agents to investigate, who found no such violations.

d. Also, at the September 16 ballgame which Tully attended, all taxicabs in the Stadium area were inspected, and all were found to be in compliance with our Code.

e. Tully and another Commissioner visited a drug testing site. They witnessed how the specimens are collected and handled, and spoke at length with the personnel who work at the site. (Also, concerning random drug testing: Tully hopes to begin targeting approximately one-third of the drivers annually for random tests, but is awaiting specifics about costs. He is leaning toward the use of saliva tests, so that they can be administered in an office setting.)

f. Tully stated a handbook is being developed for police officers to carry along in their cars, to enhance their understanding of the MTC Code and to assist them in helping us enforce that Code.

g. Tully requested that MTC should license all persons in hotels who load, or direct the loading, of vehicles so that MTC regulates this aspect of the industry, too. This includes doormen, bellmen, concierges, and a variety of other personnel.

h. Tully reiterated the Chairman's concerns regarding the concealed weapons issue.

Chairman solicited questions to Director Tully; none was offered.

Tully then concluded his report.

Chairman McCarthy solicited questions for the Commissioners; none was offered. He then solicited items of old business, new business, or any other issues/comments.

Larry Satz stated he was recently contacted and the caller suggested that the MTC conduct a one-day "flu shot day" here in the Auditorium of its new site, because of its central location.

Chairman McCarthy instructed Director Tully to investigate this subject and report to the assembly at the November meeting.

James Harris inquired whether a decision has been made about "medical vehicles."

Reply was, it is far from clear that they are covered, as long as they transport people who are not ambulatory, are incapacitated, or who are *riding under contracts* established with healthcare businesses and the like.

Mr. Tully stated he has investigated such *non-metered* vehicles, where everything is billed; the drivers don't accept any money, so Tully questions whether they are indeed acting as taxis.

Mr. Rudawsky agreed with Mr. Harris, stating that a company they know of, is doing a lot of business in regular sedans. These are not for medical emergencies, they are taking people to routine doctor appointments, dental appointments, etc.

Mr. McCarthy directed that the Commission be given specifics, so that he and Director Tully can further investigate, adding if anyone else is aggrieved by this matter, he should direct those concerns to Mr. Tully.