

Minutes of the Metropolitan Taxicab Commission Board Meeting
Friday, April 2, 2004
1:00 p.m., in the Auditorium at 100 North Tucker Boulevard

Meeting began at 1:15 p.m., with the Call to Order by Chairman McCarthy.
Roll Call was conducted; all Commissioners were present except Mr. Satz.

(note: there were 12 attendees in the audience)

Mr. McCarthy announced we do have a quorum. He then personally welcomed our new Commissioner, Mr. Shiferaw, since he (Mr. McCarthy) was absent from last month's meeting.

Mr. McCarthy then called for approval of the Minutes of the March 5 meeting.
(the Commissioners had all been sent an advance copy; there were no revisions proposed.)

**Mr. Hamilton so moved, Mr. Morgan seconded, motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. McCarthy, citing the agenda, asked Mr. Tully about the follow-up to a commendation of a driver who had returned a passenger's wallet. Mr. Tully explained that the driver was to have been commended at last month's public meeting, but he has since moved to California, so a letter of commendation was mailed to his local address on file, in the expectation it will be forwarded.

Mr. McCarthy moved on to the subject of random drug testing.

Mr. Tully briefly explained how the program will work; reported a notification letter already has been drafted and will be mailed out to owners closer to the July 1 effectiveness date.

Mr. McCarthy, per the agenda, then mentioned the subject of permitting "reserve" cabs at the airport.

Mr. Tully explained that an inquiry had been made, as to whether there should even be "reserve" cabs allowed within the *Airport* classification.

Mr. McCarthy asked for the history of this issue. Mr. Tully stated that the MTC staff has just completed its census, which stands at 250; however a few airport owners, during field inspections, had asked if they will be permitted to retain "reserves."

There followed a discussion of the judiciousness of permitting this to be done. It was made clear that to hold "reserves" (as is already permissible in the On-Call classification) the owners would have to pay the full applicable fee which is \$1,100 for Airport cabs (yet only \$55 for On-Call.)

Mr. McCarthy suggested that the Commissioners look into the issue much more thoroughly, and asked Mr. Tully to make a recommendation at the next meeting.

Mr. McCarthy then moved, per the agenda, on to the audit and financial reports contained in the Commissioners' folders today.

Mr. Tully stated that St. Louis County Auditor has concluded his preliminary audit and issued his findings and some recommendations. He added that he and MTC Treasurer/Commissioner Mike Morgan had attended an 'exit conference,' where they reviewed all the audit team's suggestions and recommendations - and each of those has already been complied with/implemented.

Mr. Morgan clarified that everything was found to be in excellent order, per the audit - only a few 'administrative' suggestions were made, which were chiefly practical considerations but which did not constitute actual errors or problems.

Mr. Tully added that we have already turned in our responses to all their suggestions, and they will reply by letter when they review those responses.

Mr. McCarthy asked MTC counsel, Patrick McCarthy, whether we have followed all the statutory requirements so as to comply. Mr. Patrick McCarthy replied that he will meet with the chair by the end of this month (April) to ensure we are in absolute compliance.

Mr. McCarthy stated that all 'old business' has been addressed, and we will now move on to items of 'new business.'

New Business

Mr. McCarthy, per the agenda, asked Mr. Tully to provide his report about a merger proposal: AWAB, Central, and Medina cab companies will merge to become "Express Airport Taxi Co." Mr. Tully replied that our counsel (Mr. Patrick McCarthy) has approved it as to legality, adding that this is a situation where no new Certificates of Convenience and Necessity are to be issued, there merely will be some new lettering of vehicles, but that everything will operate as now.

Mr. McCarthy clarified that this merger is administrative only, and Mr. Tully replied "yes."

Mr. McCarthy asked whether there is a change in ownership; Mr. Tully replied, "no."

** Mr. McCarthy then made the motion to approve the merger. Seconded by Mr. Hamilton, and was passed by unanimous vote.*

Mr. McCarthy stated that the next order of business is to select the May meeting date. Due to his own commitments, he suggested Friday, May 7 and asked the other Commissioners for their concurrence. This was given, and the meeting time was set for 1:00 p.m. on that date.

Mr. McCarthy then broached a subject not on the agenda: he stated that the hotel industry has petitioned him for a reduction of the fees for hotel courtesy shuttle drivers. He asked the MTC staff to do some research and respond to this, adding that we must have resolution by August. Mr. McCarthy then instructed Director Tully to ensure that the staff report is submitted to the Commissioners well in advance, so that they can develop their own questions and prepare suitable responses for discussion in a future public forum.

Mr. Morgan suggested the staff also project the monetary ramifications of lowering those fees.

Mr. Tully added that the financial impact is of concern to him, and stated he will present a census.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the hotel industry has invited us to meet with their board to discuss this issue, and suggested the MTC staff contact them to arrange such a meeting.

Mr. McCarthy added that we have committed to periodic review of the appropriateness of all our fees in *every* classification.

Mr. McCarthy then called for any additional items of new business from the Commissioners.

Mr. Rudawsky replied that he would like the MTC to become more 'proactive' to achieving the adoption and enforcement of our Code by the various municipalities.

Mr. McCarthy suggested to legal counsel Patrick McCarthy that he set up a meeting with Mr. Tim Fischesser, who is executive director of the St. Louis County Municipal League.

Mr. Tully explained that he has already met with the League's second-in-command, and that the MTC has recently been introduced in the League's February newsletter.

Mr. Hamilton expressed the need to accelerate our efforts, stating he will assist Mr. Patrick McCarthy in achieving this objective.