

**GREAT FALLS TRANSIT DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 25, 2017**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Great Falls Transit District Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., October 25, 2017, in the Conference Room at the Transit Facility at 3905 North Star Boulevard, Great Falls, Montana.

**2. ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present:**

Ann Marie Meade, Vice Chairperson  
Donna Zook  
Ken Johnson  
Shyla Patera

**Others Present:**

Nadine Hanning, Finance Manager  
Jim Helgeson, General Manager  
Brenda Long, Administrative Assistant

**Absent**

Carl Donovan, Chairperson

**3. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

None

**4. Minutes for Board Meeting September 27, 2017:**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Board member Zook, Board member Johnson seconded, motion passed.

**5. MANAGER'S REPORTS**

a. Summary of System Status:

Jim Helgeson stated that due to Veteran's Day falling on a Saturday that GFTD will be closed both Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11, 2017.

- b. Performance Indicators
- c. Ridership Reports
- d. Financial Reports

**6. CHECK REGISTER**

The September 19, 2017 through October 19, 2017 check register was presented for approval. Board member Johnson called for a motion to approve. Board member Patera seconded. Motion passed.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Technical Advisory Committee of the MPO (TAC)**

- Did not meet

**b. Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) of the Great Falls Metropolitan Planning**

**Organization.** – Did not meet

**c. Great Falls TAC**

- Minutes from the October 5, 2017 meeting included in board packet.

**d. ADA Advisory Committee**

- The committee did not meet.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Board member Zook wanted to know if everyone had seen the articles in the Great Falls Tribune about the Vet’s Ride Free Program. Everyone said that they had read the articles.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dan Huestis, a veteran, said that the way the Vets Ride Free program was shut down was disrespectful. A copy of his full statement, that he gave to the board, is in the board book.

Meg Parsetich, DAV coordinator, said the DAV wasn’t notified that the Vets program was being shut down. She said vets need rides and it should be important to GFTD.

Jim Helgeson, General Manager, responded that he didn’t handle the situation correctly by not calling Frank Ghee or the DAV. He stated that he had informed the Board of the situation in his weekly memo. He said that there will be a Memorandum of Understanding drawn up between GFTD and the DAV on how the program will be administered in the future. He said the program is now stronger than ever.

Joe Parsetich, of the DAV said that putting notices on the buses didn’t inform donors since most donors don’t ride the buses and that there should have been a press release. He said there should be signs on the buses thanking Frank and Mary Ghee who started the program.

Jim Donohue said he rides the bus frequently and didn’t know the program had ended until a driver told him. He felt offended by the way the notices were worded. He said he needs the program because he has no money and is the only way he can get around town.

Dan Huestis said that GFTD should respond to the newspaper articles by writing a letter to the editor apologizing to vets. He also feels there should be certain seats on the buses reserved for vets

Jerry Keller asked if there could be one bus that has military insignia on the outside. He was told that a private company handles bus ads and that he would be provided with their information after the meeting.

Meg Parsetich asked if she could sign up vets in wheelchairs for paratransit since DAV drivers couldn’t load wheelchairs into vans because they are volunteers and have no insurance. She was given a card for the ADA Administrator.

**11. DATE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING**

Work Session – Monday, November 13, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – Wednesday November 15, 2017 -7:00 p.m.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Carl J. Donovan, Chairperson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_