PARTA
Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom
July 23, 2020 @ 7 p.m.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
   Roll Call
   Oral

2. Meeting Minutes
   Minutes from June 25, 2020, Meeting (Motion Required)
   Attachment 2a

3. Guest Communications (Due to COVID-19, not required)
   Oral

4. General Manager’s Report
   Attachment 4

5. Committee Reports
   a. Administration
      Scheduled Zoom Meeting 7/23/2020
   b. Finance
      Scheduled Zoom Meeting 7/21/2020
   c. Operations
      Did Not Meet
   d. Personnel
      Did Not Meet

6. Old Business

7. New Business

8. Resolutions - Roll Call Approval Required


   #2020-07-02: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES HONORING JEREMY MOLDVAY, BOARD MEMBER, IN APPRECIATION FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE.

9. Executive Session (if needed) – Roll Call Approval Required

10. Election of Board Officers.

11. Adjournment.

Next Regular Meeting:
August 27, 2020 @ 7 p.m.
PARTA
PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Held Remotely Via Zoom

June 25, 2020

Board Members Participating:

Rick Bissler, President
Marge Bjerregaard
Richard Brockett
Jeff Childers
Debbie Davison
Dave Gynn, Vice President
Virginia Harris
Michael Lewis

Jeremy Moldvay, TPO
Morgan Tipton (not connected at roll call)
Frank Vitale
Karen Wise

Board Members Not Participating:

Brian Gray (2nd unexcused absence)
Tim Lassan (3rd unexcused absence)

Staff Participating:

Claudia Amrhein
Denise Baba
Marcia Fletcher
Kelly Jurisch
William Nome, Legal Counsel
Clayton Popik

Rebecca Schrader
Brian Trautman

Guests Participating:

None.

CALL TO ORDER

President Rick Bissler welcomed everyone to the June 25, 2020, PARTA Board of Trustees meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. An oral roll call followed, and a quorum was participating.

Mr. Bissler said the meeting minutes for the May 28, 2020, Board meeting were distributed, and he entertained a motion to accept. Mr. Mike Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Marge Bjerregaard seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes, as presented, passed unanimously.

GUEST COMMUNICATIONS

None.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Bissler said the General Manager’s report was distributed and he asked Ms. Claudia Amrhein if she had anything to clarify or go over.

Ms. Amrhein said she did not but noted that there are three (3) resolutions tonight. She also noted that she put in her report an Update on 2020 Priorities, and the status of each in regard to being interrupted due to the pandemic.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any questions for Ms. Amrhein regarding her report.
Mr. Frank Vitale asked if the IT companies interviewed specialized in the transportation industry or if that was a requirement.

Ms. Amrhein said the companies were considered more for their experience with managing complex IT systems that are operating 24/7/365 services dependent on technology.

Mr. Dave Gynn noted that Ms. Amrhein’s report included a sheet called Transit Trends, which is a great way of keeping up with priorities for this year. He said when he read it, he forgot there are some priorities that aren’t highlighted right now but are being worked on. He asked if this was a new thing she was adding.

Ms. Amrhein said she started doing this last year for several months when she was able. Last year, she updated the Board on ADA and vehicle maintenance numbers. She is trying to place a little bit more focus on the things that aren’t talked about a lot. She thanked Mr. Gynn and said it keeps her on track too.

Mr. Bissler noted that Ms. Morgan Tipton joined the meeting.

Moving on to the committee reports, Mr. Bissler asked Ms. Karen Wise to provide a report on the Administration Committee.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Wise said the Administration Committee met this evening and discussed Old Business and the consideration of nominations for Board officers. Mr. Bissler sent an email to her with nominations of Dave Gynn for President, Mike Lewis for Vice President, and Karen Wise for Temporary Presiding Officer. She said no decisions have been made and nominations remain open until the July Board meeting. If anyone has other nominations for those positions, she asked that they reach out to her, Ms. Amrhein, or Ms. Marcia Fletcher between now and the next meeting. She said the committee also had one (1) resolution (#2020-06-03) that allows for pursuing grants with AMATS for future projects, which was recommended.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he asked Mr. Lewis to give a report on the Finance Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Lewis thanked Mr. Bissler and said the Finance Committee met Tuesday by Zoom. Some things will be repetitive of last month’s report. PARTA looks pretty good, but the Kent Central Gateway (KCG) is having some issues as most would expect. Some of the highlights: A little bit over $1.1 million in CARES money was received for March and April and another $600,000 will be coming in May. Overall, Fuel and Lubricants is down considerably because of less travel. For May, there is a surplus of $827,662 with a year-to-date surplus of $1,686,141, which is good. On to KCG, traffic is down considerably at 1,535 cars, which will affect year-to-date. Year-to-date, there is a loss of $31,622. Receivables are behind about $135,000 but that hopefully will start turning around as things start to re-open. Other than that, two (2) resolutions were reviewed and recommended to the Board for approval: 2020-06-01 and 2020-06-02.

Mr. Bissler thanked Mr. Lewis and asked if there were any questions for him. Hearing none, he moved on to Old Business.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee did not meet.
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee did not meet.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bissler said the only item under Old Business is opening the floor for nominations for Board officers. Hearing no further nominations, he suggested that if anyone had nominations, they should contact Ms. Wise directly.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bissler then moved on to the resolutions.

Resolutions

Mr. Bissler said the first resolution is 2020-06-01.

#2020-06-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST, MOST RESPONSIVE BIDDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF DIESEL AND GASOLINE FUEL. THIS IS A JOINT PURCHASING VENTURE WITH AKRON METRO RTA, WESTERN RESERVE RTA, AND STARK AREA RTA, ET AL.

Mr. Bissler entertained a motion.

Motion: Marge Bjerregaard Second: Dave Gynn

Mr. Bissler asked Ms. Amrhein to talk about this resolution.

Ms. Amrhein said this is the annual fuel purchase resolution that is being brought forward early. State law and PARTA’s procurement policies require that the Board award contracts for any amounts over $100,000. The fuel contract is bid annually through a joint process with other RTAs, the lowest bidder is identified on the day the bids are opened, and the contract is entered into that same day, which occurs in December. The Board has traditionally passed a pre-authority resolution to go through that process, identify the bidder, and then execute the contract with the Board ratifying it. This year, it is being brought forward as continuing for years after this using the same kind of procurement. The bids are publicly opened, the low bid is selected, there’s no negotiation, and it’s for fuel, diesel and gasoline, which is needed to continue to operate beginning January 1 of each year. The Finance Committee discussed this, and, in the end, it was determined that because of the nature of the purchase and the fact that fuel is an essential part of functioning, doing this presented no downside. If a decision is made in the future to change the process of procurement, this resolution would no longer apply. This resolution eliminates the need to bring this forward every year in the event there isn’t a quorum. It becomes a problem to wait until the end of the year. The only change made to the resolution was brought up by Mr. William Nome. He mentioned that the Akron Beacon Journal might be problematic if they change their name or become extinct so that language was broadened to be inclusive of different kinds of publications throughout the wide area that transits cover.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, a roll call vote was taken.
Mr. Bissler then moved on to Resolution #2020-06-02.

#2020-06-02: A resolution by the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) Board of Trustees awarding a contract to Quality IP, the most responsive and responsible proposer for Information Technology (IT) Managed Services.

Mr. Bissler entertained a motion.

Motion: Debbie Davison Second: Karen Wise

Ms. Amrhein said an RFP for IT Managed Services was issued in March this year. This followed last year’s process of studying what PARTA has and doing an inventory and planning process for all the IT infrastructure and communication equipment. A multi-tiered replacement schedule was put together that included how old the equipment was and when it needed to be replaced. Everything PARTA does is basically supported by technology. The RFP was held up by COVID. Now, that process has moved forward and six (6) responsive proposals were received in response to the published RFP. After interviewing and scoring the top two (2), Quality IP presented the best value for PARTA. She then asked Mr. Brian Trautman to say a little bit more.

Mr. Trautman said the biggest learning curve this year has been studying and learning the dynamics of IT. PARTA has so many diverse systems that diving into it determined that there is nothing that PARTA does, from fare collection, radio systems, to payroll systems, that doesn’t run through some type of an IT conduit and that’s only getting more and more complex. Mr. Vitale asked a question earlier that is relevant. One of the things looked at was the experience of the companies when it comes to the specific technologies that PARTA uses, one being mobile routers in all the buses, which is being implemented now. This will allow the camera systems and the Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) that are in the buses and any other technology, including mobile Wi-Fi, if pursued, to go through those mobile routers that only need one (1) conduit to communicate with all those different packets of information. Quality IP was the only IT firm that had experience with Cradlepoint and the MDT application in that they do similar services for the 911 component of Kent and Ravenna Police Departments. The experience that each one of the IT proposers had in relationship with the technology being used was taken into consideration. It’s the beginning of a long-term partnership, which was the goal. PARTA outgrew the IT firm that was used last year. Quality IP brings a much larger panoramic skillset to the table and they’re located close by, which is important. He was involved in the interview process, as well as Ms. Amrhein, Ms. Jurisch, Ms. Rebecca Schrader, Ms. Ashley Boyd, and Mr. Mike Huang. There were a lot of different perspectives in this interview process, so he feels confident that a good firm was selected through a solid process.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Vitale asked if Quality IP serviced transit authorities of a similar size to PARTA and if any of the six (6) firms had a similar experience with transit authorities of PARTA’s size.
Mr. Trautman said Quality IP has no transit authority background but they do have similar IT technology/equipment in that they service 911 call centers and MDTs that are in the police department and cars that are out on the road. None of the six (6) firms gave any transit authorities as references.

Mr. Vitale asked if Quality IP specialized in government agencies as opposed to corporations.

Mr. Trautman said he wouldn’t use the word specialized. They were the only one that submitted a proposal that had municipal relationships.

Mr. Bissler asked if there was anything else. Hearing nothing further, a roll call vote was taken.

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Mr. Bissler then moved on to the last resolution.


Mr. Bissler entertained a motion.

**Motion:** Marge Bjerregaard  **Second:** Virginia Harris

Mr. Bissler asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Amrhein to comment.

Ms. Amrhein said this is an authorization to seek grant funding through AMATS for specialized enhanced transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities, which is made every other year. The application will be for three (3) Light Transit Vehicles (LTVs) to replace three (3) LTVs that are going out of their useful life cycle. The application requires that it be accompanied by a resolution.

Mr. Bissler asked if there were any questions for Ms. Amrhein.

Mr. Vitale asked how much money could be awarded through this grant.

Ms. Amrhein said it’s a limited amount of money but, as mentioned in her Board report, it’s calculated at about $270,000 for three (3) LTVs.

Mr. Bissler asked if there was anything else. Hearing nothing further, a roll call vote was taken.
REVIEWED BY SENIOR STAFF

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Mr. Bissler said he is not aware of any need for an Executive Session and asked Ms. Jurisch if she had any comments.

Ms. Jurisch said there is no fair this year so PARTA will not be asking for volunteers. It’s going to be a very different summer.

Mr. Bissler said that is a disappointment for a lot of folks and asked if anybody else had any comments.

Mr. Gynn thanked Mr. Jeremy Moldvay for his service these past years and asked him if this was his last meeting.

Mr. Moldvay thanked Mr. Gynn and said he will not be at the next meeting. He said he has been on the Board for six (6) years.

Mr. Bissler then asked if there was a lead-in to the video being shown.

Mr. Trautman said Ms. Denise Baba did all the work on this video. He just gave her a couple links.

Ms. Amrhein said she asked for a walkthrough of the new building. What the Board is getting is something produced.

Ms. Baba then shared her screen and launched the video. After the video, she said she will put the two-minute video on PARTA’s YouTube feed so anyone can go back later and get a closer look.

Mr. Bissler said it seems like just the other day when the footers were put in so it’s nice to see it coming along. He asked Mr. Trautman if it would be finished sometime in early July.

Mr. Trautman said his goal on that building is for it to be completed by the end of July.

Mr. Bissler asked if there was anything else.

Ms. Tipton said she just wanted to pass on a moment of encouragement to everyone who is working full time. She is really impressed with all the communications and it shows in all the PARTA interactions that she’s seen, such as when she’s at the grocery store and sees a PARTA LTV waiting for a senior citizen with a mask on and helping them get in and out; or when she sees the bus that was stuck behind the railroad gate that was down and there’s no train but the driver is sticking to the policy and keeping people safe until he gets the OK from the railroad folks. All the things that she has seen PARTA do, especially in these last few months, has been stellar. She is grateful for what everyone is doing and the ways that people and the community are being kept in motion. She is honored and privileged to serve alongside everyone, even in just a small capacity. She thanked everyone for all the things they’re doing and said to keep up the good work.

Ms. Amrhein thanked Ms. Tipton for the nice comments. She said everyone has pulled together, and it really shows. She is grateful for that as well.
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bissler thanked Ms. Baba for the video and said it was amazing that it was produced in an afternoon. He thanked the Board for their nice job of conducting the second Zoom meeting online. He said it looks like the Board has been doing this for years. Hearing nothing else, he entertained a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Frank Vitale made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Marge Bjerregaard seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Fletcher
Executive Assistant
Committee Meetings and Resolutions. The July meeting agenda includes resolutions to confirm PARTA’s compliance with the Ohio Open Meetings Act as amended during COVID-19, and to express appreciation to Jeremy Moldvay for his years of service on the Board of Trustees.

The finance committee will meet remotely via Zoom on Tuesday, July 21, at 11:30 a.m. to review June financial reports.

The administration committee will meet remotely via Zoom on Thursday, July 23, at 6:30 p.m. to finalize nominations for officer elections. Please see below for more information regarding nominations received to-date. The administration committee also will consider Resolution #2020-07-01 and Resolution #2020-07-02.


Conducting Public Meetings Virtually During COVID-19 State of Emergency. Resolution #2020-07-01 confirms PARTA’s compliance with the Ohio General Assembly’s legislation allowing virtual meetings of public bodies during the COVID-19 global pandemic. The resolution provides a link between our By-Laws, which are based on the tenets of the Ohio Open Meetings Act prior to COVID-19, and the modifications permitting virtual meetings during the current pandemic. This resolution provides the basis for enacting procedures deemed necessary to facilitate efficient and orderly virtual meetings.

#2020-07-02: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES HONORING JEREMY MOLDVAY, BOARD MEMBER, IN APPRECIATION FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE.

Thank you, Jeremy. Resolution #2020-07-02 extends PARTA’s grateful appreciation to Jeremy Moldvay for his years of service on the PARTA Board of Trustees. Appointed by Streetsboro in 2013, Jeremy served as Temporary Presiding Officer and as chair and member of the Administration Committee.

Marvin Woods Joins Board. We welcome new board trustee Marvin Woods, appointed by Streetsboro City to the three-year term beginning July 1 vacated by Jeremy. Marvin lives and worked in Streetsboro until retiring recently from Chrysler Corporation’s Mopar facility. He filled an unexpired term on Streetsboro City Council in 2019 and has served on Streetsboro’s Parks, Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee and the Streetsboro Board of Zoning and Building Appeals. Welcome, Marvin.

Administration Committee Discussed Nominations for July Elections. During its June meeting, President Rick Bissler notified the administration committee of his decision to remain on the board only until the city of Kent appoints someone to replace him. His term expired June 30 but was temporarily extended by Mayor Fiala. Rick has been President for 14 of the 17 years he’s served on the board. Committee Chair Karen Wise reported that Bissler nominated the following slate of officers for the upcoming July elections: President, Dave Gynn; Vice President, Mike Lewis; TPO, Karen Wise. Officer nominations can be submitted to Karen at karen.wise@davey.com up until the July 23 meeting.
Transitioning to New Board Legal Counsel. Beginning in September, new board legal counsel will be in place at board and committee meetings. Bill Nome, PARTA legal counsel for over 30 years, will remain available to answer questions and assist as may be needed through the end of 2020. The reasons for this change are summarized below.

For years, PARTA's key strategic focus has been evaluating existing service models and staffing structures to strengthen PARTA's resilience to changing financial circumstances and the growing complexities of providing three (3) public transportation services – public transit, both county and KSU campus; daily, residential, and overnight parking 24/7/365 at KCG; and public CNG fueling services.

Since 2014, we have updated and/or redesigned numerous services, structures, and policies, such as:

- Transit Development Plan updated; fixed routes redesigned, 2014-16
- KSU campus transit contract renegotiated with new 10-year agreement, 2017
- KCG parking access and control system replaced, 2017
- Dial-A-Ride (DART) redesigned; human service transportation contracts renegotiated, 2017-18
- Board By-laws revised; new presentations focus on board governance duties, 2018-20
- Senior Staff leadership structure refined, 2019
- Procurement Policy updated in line with ORC authority for purchases under $100,000, 2019
- ADA policy revised; launched professional ADA eligibility determination process, 2019-20
- Payroll processing contract awarded to Paylocity after 20 years with ADP, 2019
- IT managed services contract awarded to Quality IP after 14 years with Jaekle Group, 2020

The COVID-19 global pandemic has forced organizations all around the world to make difficult business decisions. PARTA is no exception. Every day, we are addressing the new realities and long-term ramifications of operating during a worldwide pandemic. To facilitate making strategic planning decisions within uncertain financial circumstances, it is in PARTA's best interest to secure legal services through a firm equipped with depth of resources and able to provide enhanced support to the board and management. Phone calls between Rick and Bill, and Dave, Bill and myself began in June to facilitate a transition process. In July, we issued a "Letter of Invitation" to attorneys and their firms who provide legal counsel to PARTA on matters or projects and as a result, already possess a level of knowledge, experience and familiarity with our services and public governing board structure. We extend our grateful appreciation to Bill for his tenure and service to PARTA and regret that during COVID-19 we are not able to hold a proper celebration gathering.

Service Reports. (Coronavirus closures began March 2020) Ridership. Total county fixed route and DART ridership decreased by 37.82% through June, as compared to June 2019 with total county service performing 132,395 trips as compared to 212,938 trips performed through June 2019. Overall ridership, including campus service, decreased by 42.29%, with campus down by 44.59%. Total system ridership totaled 317,103 as compared to 549,474 through June 2019.

On-Time Compliance. ADA Complementary Paratransit Service. ADA on-time compliance was 98.56% in June as compared to 93.98% in May. Of 485 trips, 7 were performed late, with the latest running 28 minutes behind. General Public (non-ADA) DART On-time performance for general public, non-ADA trips improved slightly at 86.54% for June, as compared to 84.26% in May 2020.

Vehicle Preventative Maintenance (PM). On-time compliance with established PM inspection schedules were 100% in June as compared to 100% in May 2020.

Parking. Total parking year-to-date through June decreased by 50% as compared to June 2019 YTD, with 28,029 total cars parking through June 2020 as compared to 52,245 parking through June 2019.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. If you have any questions prior to the board meeting, please feel free to contact me by calling (330) 676-6315, or by e-mail at Amrhein.c16@partaonline.org.
Transit Trends

Update on 2020 Priorities

In the February board packet, I included a list of 2020 short term priorities set to pave the way for planning longer-term goals and objectives.

In March, as the COVID-19 global pandemic caused closures and changes to nearly everything in our society, our priorities shifted to keeping transit running every day while prioritizing the safety and health of our workforce and community. Here’s a revised 2020 priority list with a brief status update:

A. COVID-19 global pandemic
   - First countywide meeting held March 2; constant focus since March 10

B. Determining ADA paratransit eligibility via “Easy Street” functional assessment process
   - Completed several assessments; suspended evaluations April and May; resumed in June

C. Leasing the Gateway second floor to Kent City Health Department effective April 1
   - KCHD unable to move during pandemic
   - Currently working to install necessary IT and communication infrastructure to enable move in during July

D. Completing FTA Triennial Review on-site visit May 14-15 and deficiencies if any
   - On-site review in May cancelled and not yet rescheduled

E. Developing messaging around PARTA’s 45th Anniversary and continuing staff and board development, community engagement and recruitment strategies
   - New messaging through videos, press releases, and signage reference 45th anniversary as appropriate; most messaging related to COVID-19
   - Board development and engagement shifted to acquiring and learning new technology and training members to attend “virtual” board meetings via Zoom or conference calling

F. Supporting Portage County’s efforts to promote 2020 Census participation
   - Continued sharing information through virtual platforms

G. Launching hotel parking software program upon purchase by KSU Hotel
   - Hotel closed in March and is gradually reopening
   - Software purchased by hotel but not yet installed

H. Issuing and awarding RFPs: 1) LTVs 2) IT Managed Services; 3) Transit Buses
   - LTV RFP completed; board awarded contract in May
   - IT Managed Services RFP board award on June meeting agenda
   - Transit Bus Contract
     - Transit bus orders now require 24-month lead time
     - Current contract expires November 2021
     - Board resolution needed in August 2020 to purchase CNG transit buses #7 and #8
     - Issue RFP in Fall 2020 to solicit proposals for multiyear contract beginning 2022
KENT CENTRAL GATEWAY PARKING
SUMMARY - June 2020

6 Month Lookback

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TOTAL CARS PER MONTH

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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>28,029</td>
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# Rate Types Collected

$ Rate Types Collected

Annual Revenue By Source

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<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<td>2017</td>
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$-  | $50,000  | $100,000| $150,000| $200,000| $250,000|
RESOLUTION #2020-07-01

A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONFIRMING PARTA'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY’S LEGISLATION MODIFYING THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT AS PART OF THE COVID-19 RESPONSE.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions imposed on public gatherings made it impractical for Ohio public bodies to comply with the in-person meeting requirement during the health emergency declared by Governor Mike DeWine and implemented by the Ohio Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor DeWine and Director Acton issued an amended order to limit and/or prohibit mass gatherings by banning certain gatherings of fifty (50) or more persons in a single room or space and strongly recommending Ohioans avoid unnecessary non-family gatherings of more than ten (10) people in accordance with President Trump’s coronavirus guidelines issued March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the General Assembly approved House Bill 197, a lengthy measure dealing with myriad topics related to the COVID-19 emergency. Two (2) days later, the governor signed the legislation, which, as an emergency measure, took effect immediately. Included in the new law are sections addressing public meetings; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 197 permits public bodies to have virtual meetings, with members attending virtually. In this emergency context, members are not required to be physically present to be counted toward a quorum or to vote on matters being considered; and

WHEREAS, the law requires a virtual meeting to be conducted through the use of electronic technology that allows member participation and public access. Teleconferences and video conferences are mentioned as acceptable means of member participation, with live streaming through the internet. Any actions taken during a properly conducted virtual meeting have the same effect as those taken during an in-person meeting; and

WHEREAS, since the law’s enactment, PARTA has relied upon the guidance found in House Bill 197 and considers it a temporary supplemental resource to be used in conjunction with the PARTA By-Law for decision-making related to conducting public meetings during the state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, PARTA acquired tablets and is using the Zoom platform to conduct its virtual meetings, which is a valuable tool for facilitating meetings that also complies with the emergency restrictions and protects public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 197 remains in effect during the effective period of the emergency declaration or until December 1, 2020, if the declaration continues beyond that date. As such, the measure’s provisions permit public bodies to conduct virtual meetings until the emergency declaration is rescinded; December 1, 2020, comes and goes; or the General Assembly amends the law.
NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) Board of Trustees that:

PARTA will continue to comply with the Ohio General Assembly’s legislation modifying the Open Meetings Act as part of the COVID-19 response until the emergency declaration is rescinded; December 1, 2020, comes and goes; or the General Assembly amends the law.

CERTIFICATION:
The undersigned duly qualified Board President, acting on behalf of the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA), certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of Trustees held on July 23, 2020.

____________________________________
Date

____________________________________
Rick Bissler, President
Board of Trustees

Attested
RESOLUTION #2020-07-02

RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES HONORING JEREMY MOLDVAY, BOARD MEMBER, IN APPRECIATION FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE.

Whereas, Jeremy Moldvay has been a PARTA Board Trustee appointed by the City of Streetsboro from 2013-2020; and

Whereas, Jeremy Moldvay has been a faithful and valuable member serving as a Trustee, Temporary Presiding Officer, Chair of the Administration Committee, and Member of the Administration Committee; and

Whereas, Jeremy Moldvay is highly respected by both his fellow Board members and the General Manager and Staff of PARTA; and

Whereas, Jeremy Moldvay has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Portage County through his dedication and service to PARTA.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) Board of Trustees that they extend their grateful appreciation by this special resolution acknowledging Jeremy Moldvay for his dedicated service and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

CERTIFICATION:
The undersigned duly qualified Board President, acting on behalf of the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA), certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of Trustees held on July 23, 2020.

________________________________________
Date

Rick Bissler, President
Board of Trustees

Attested
Rough Riders Read returns to Kent

By KRISTA S. KANO
Reporter

Not even a pandemic will stop Kent City Schools librarians from getting books to students.

On Thursday, the district kicked off its second annual Rough Riders Read summer program that aims to encourage reading by offering free books at events all over the city. The program also intends to minimize the summer slide, the tendency for student test scores to drop over the summer.

Building off of last summer’s success, the district was planning to bring Rough Riders Read to even more locations throughout the city, including a downtown event that was going to include a bubble artist. The district was also brainstorming ways to better reach their economically disadvantaged students, and Superintendent George Joseph said they were considering providing free PARTA passes to make the events easier to attend.

Due to the coronavirus, however, those plans were scrapped, and this year’s Rough Riders Read has been modified into a quick drive-thru experience.

“It’s tough because last year we created this social environment where everyone came and stayed and read books. It was such a wonderful community event, and we can’t have that this year unfortunately. We will get back to that, but we’re just really glad we still get to do this,” said librarian Terry Clatter, who co-founded and organized the event with Jennifer Flaherty and Melissa Stellenberger.

Following safety protocols from the
Returns
From Page A1

Kent Health District, there is no con-
gregating, no food and no activities,
but students can still receive one free
book at each of the five events
throughout the summer.

“They wait, and once it’s their turn
they can come pick out a book and
get back in the car. It’s been a nice
steady flow. I don’t think people have
had to wait too long, which was
something we were worried about,”
Clutter said.

First-grader Cambria Scales, for ex-
ample, was in and out of the Longcay
parking lot within minutes. Cambria
said she was excited for the event,
but didn’t know she was going to get
a free book. She quickly chose “Pete
the Cat: I Love My White Shoes,” got
back in her parents’ car and left.

The Wade family also had a quick
visit, with Liam choosing “100 Most
Awesome Things on the Planet,” and
Reagan opting for “I Survived: The
Shark Attacks of 1916.”

“I think this is a great idea. It’s
awesome to have the kids be able to
get a book that they can read over the
summer,” their mother Shannon
Wade said.

Reagan, a Stanton Middle School
student, was also able to pick up her
required summer reading book,
“Tuck Everlasting.”

“Stanton wasn’t able to get their
summer books in time, so they’re
handing them out at Rough Riders
Read. That may be helping with at-
tendance, and it’s definitely brought a
ton more middle and high school stu-
dents,” Plaherty said.

On Thursday, 120 students re-
ceived free books, just three less than
last year’s kick-off, which also in-
cluded free food, prizes, activities, a
bike raffle and free swimming at the
natatorium.

Clutter noted that this year’s pro-
gram is even more important because
many students have not had access to
new materials. Because of school clo-
sures, students could not check out
books from their school libraries, and
until recently, they could not check
out books from public libraries.

The next Rough Riders Read event
is scheduled for June 30 at Davey Ele-
mentary School. Subsequent events
will be on July 14 at Al Lease Park,
July 28 at Holden Elementary School
and Aug. 11 at Walls Elementary
School.

Events are for all students K-12.
Students with names A-M are encour-
ged to visit from 5 to 6 p.m., and
students with names M-Z from 6 to 7
p.m.

For more information, visit https://
sites.google.com/kentschools.net/
roughridersread.