

Public Member Seat – Second Interviews

Conducted by the Executive Committee – February 13, 2017

Questions (Q) and Summary of Responses: Gregory T. Winterbottom

Q1: Why are you seeking reappointment to the OCTA Board? What do you hope to accomplish that you have not been able to accomplish in the last 20 years?

- Longest serving Board Member and has institutional knowledge.
- Feels he has credibility with the disabled community because of his prior experience.
- Wants OCTA to accomplish the OC Streetcar Project, Interstate 405 Improvement Project, and address the decrease in bus ridership.
- Hopes to be innovative in looking at the future.

Q2: What skill do you bring to OCTA that might be a unique asset in moving the Promises Made, Promises Kept work plan and culture forward?

- Institutional knowledge is an asset and wants to help resolve the bus system and labor issues.

Q3: What are your specific goals for a four year term on the OCTA Board?

- To continue to address and control ACCESS costs, which he has been doing for the past 20 years.

Q4: If you were a member of the Executive Committee evaluating who to choose as a Public Member, what do you think is the criteria the committee should use in selecting the Public Member?

- Public Member needs to have knowledge of how OCTA's multi-modal agency works; not just what's found on the Internet.
- Serves on the Metrolink Board, Mobile Source Air Pollution Reductions Review Committee (MSRC), and has been its chair several times.
- Attends OCTA events to show employees that the Board is interested.

Q5: Describe a situation in which you had to arrive at a compromise or guide others to a compromise.

- The Centerline project had issues. He supported the project by being Chairman of the Board in 2004 and by noting the project benefits.
- In 2013, tried to get OCTA to purchase a new Headquarters building. OCTA did not purchase the new building, however the rent cost was reduced at the current OCTA Headquarters building.

Q6: For the last four of five years, give an example of an issue or project that you pushed back on staff and actually changed direction that staff started.

- OCTA Headquarters building lease renewal-directed staff to consider other options.
- Throughout his many years on the Board, feels that staff has an understanding of what the Board wants.
- Board also hired a strong Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Q7: Tell us about other Boards on which you've served on and how you engage with the other Board Members?

- Member of the Metrolink Board for three years and enjoys supporting the agency in moving forward; described the Metrolink Board and CEO leadership.
- Highest Metrolink ridership is on Orange County Line, which takes commuters off the freeway.
- Serves on MSRC Board.
- MSRC receives \$1.00 per vehicle registration fees.
- As Chair of MSRC Board, pushed for a two year program in order to spend more money to assist other agencies.

Q8: You mentioned that Metrolink had some significant issues. Tell us about the significant issue you were involved in and what you did to try and remedy the issue.

- Metrolink has money issues.
- Since serving on the Board, have helped to stabilize monetary issues and have been instrumental in putting grant funding into the Tier IV (low emissions) locomotive.

Q9: What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the OCTA Board of Directors, the Board leadership, and the agency's staff?

- Board sets policy and direction and staff follows.
- Sometime direction gets intermingled with what staff wants to do and the Board has responsibility to keep OCTA on course.
- OCTA had M2020 review program and has now replacing it with a new program.
- This review program is OCTA's vision for the future and ability to make sure OCTA stays the course and serves the public.

Q10: How do you distinguish the responsibilities and roles of the OCTA Board versus the Board leadership?

- Has served as OCTA's Chairman of the Board twice and has helped to set the policy on his initiatives.
- Each Chair has goals to accomplish as Board leadership, which sets the tone for OCTA.
- Provided an example of the Chair's initiatives.

Q11: Can you think of an areas where you would tend to disagree with the philosophy of the majority of the Board. If so, how do you operate in that situation?

- Has had disagreements.
- Provided examples of purchasing a new Headquarters for OCTA; tried to persuade the Board but received no support.
- Did not personalize the Board's disagreement.
- Feels as a Board Member, you need to state your case, influence, and if out voted, majority rules.

Q12: With the current Board, is there anything the Board is doing as a whole that you do not particularly agree with?

- There are diverse opinions on some items and would like to see the opinions come closer together.
- Gave examples of the OC Streetcar potential extensions that have diverse Board opinions.

Q13: Tell us about a time when you had to adapt to a wide variety of people by accepting/understanding their perspective.

- Founding Chair of Dale McIntosh Center for disabled community.
- Center has diverse disabled groups and each one has its own type of request for services.
- Addressing those requests is interesting.

Q14: Can you tell us about a time when you needed to be particularly sensitive to another person's beliefs, cultural background, or way of doing things?

- No problem with diversity; what he's done at OCTA is living proof.
- 80 percent of bus riders are Hispanic and most low income.
- Provided example of OCTA's ACCESS service for the disabled population.
- Comfortable dealing with all aspects of society.

Q15: Give us an example of your strengths and weaknesses.

- Strength is longevity and institutional knowledge, and hopes the Board can use this going forward.
- No weaknesses as it pertains to the Board.
- Tends to get overinvolved in certain issues and spends too much time on it.
- Reads every agenda and is interested in the nuances because he's on three different Boards.

Q16: Asked about formal education and certification in Labor Relations Management.

- Masters from University of Southern California.
- Involved in Labor Relations in previous job and also took a course on Labor Relations Management.

Q17: If you were to be reappointed on the Board, what advice would you give the Board on policy for the Public Member (i.e., term limit or continue to serve)?

- The Board has the ability to review the qualifications of the seating Public Member, which may have an advantage to the workings of the Board.
- He suggests reviewing the process and would like to serve as Chairman of that Ad Hoc Committee.
- Doesn't support term limits and feels if there is a good person, they should continue serving.

Q18: Do you have any questions for the Executive Committee?

- Wants to continue serving on the Board and has transportation knowledge since 1977.

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Questions (Q) and Summary of Responses: George W. Wright

Q1: How did you become interested in OCTA and in serving on the Board? Why are you seeking appointment to the Board?

- Family worked for public transportation in Los Angeles.
- Works at the university and regards service and investing in the next generation.
- About moving people and products and developing solutions, which is similar to OCTA's vision statement.

Q2: What would be your goals for your four-year term on the OCTA Board?

- To make transportation for leisure or work better, easier and affordable for the "Baby Boomers", Generations X/Y, and the "Millennials."

Q3: You have a relative that takes paratransit services?

- Has several relatives that use paratransit.
- Also a bus rider.
- The delivery of the last mile travelled is important.

Q4: If you were an Executive Committee Member, choosing the Public Member, what are important factors in this position?

- Critical thinking, ethics, and being adaptable.

Q5: Describe a situation in which you had to arrive at a compromise or guide others to a compromise.

- Compromise intersects and you need the ability to compromise in order to get what is needed and optimize where you need to be.
- Provided examples of compromise, affordability, and a short-term equitable outcome worked when a facility needed to be shut down and the workforce reduced in Rotterdam.

Q6: Please tell us about other Boards on which you have served and how you engaged with other Board Members?

- Serves on the Executive Committee, Academic Committee, and approximately 11 Boards at Concordia University.
- Also served on non-profits, Homeowners Associations and many Ad Hoc committees.

Q7: Give 3 or 4 achievements you brought to the table to the Boards you served on.

- At Concordia University, Center for Public Policy, he was able to get transparency and have the community meet the leadership.
- Also settled issues while serving on Homeowners Association.

Q8: What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of OCTA's Board Members, Board leadership, and the agency staff?

- To lead and make informed decisions.
- Staff needs the support and guidance to make sure they reach the mission and vision that the Board agrees upon.

Q9: Tell us about a time when you had to adapt to a wide variety of people by accepting/understanding their perspective.

- The University has many new and expanded federal and state Americans With Disabilities Act regulations for students; the University is addressing ways to better serve those students.

Q10: Give us an example of a policy the OCTA Board adopted in the recent past that you did not agree with.

- Example of a disagreement when he was the Global Director of IT and haul trucks needed to be purchased.
- He was frustrated with OCTA when he called in a complaint and was not able to obtain a tracking number, call-back, resolution, or answer.

Q11: Can you tell us about a time when you needed to be particularly sensitive to another person's beliefs cultural background, or way of doing things.

- Forty-seven countries, every religion, race, creed, and belief attend the university.

Q12: Give us an example of your strengths and weaknesses.

- Works at a very high strategic level, is able to take issues and history of the issues, and put a plan in place for it.
- Is detail-oriented and works on making the balance.

Q13: Asked about his formal education that he has a BA in Economics, MA in Accounting and Business Administration at Cal State Fullerton. Do you have labor relations and finance courses?

- Has degrees from CSUF and has taken labor relations, finance, and budget courses.
- A CPA.
- Member of the Center for Public Policy at Concordia University.

Q14: Could you look at the sales tax forecast and ask probing questions of the economist that OCTA hires?

- Knows the appropriate questions to ask and the information that is needed depending upon the decision, along with the forecasting models and assumptions.
- The key is the assumptions, no matter what model or what person does it.
- Economics knowledge, which helps to know what questions to ask.

Q15: What does your IT background entail? Were you in an executive or management position?

- Global IT Director for Borax and had responsibility for Asia, Western Europe, United States, and Australia.
- Background is not in IT; US Borax needed someone to be a strategic thinker and manager.
- In an executive position for US Borax.

Q16: If appointed to the OCTA Board, what would it look like in terms of your time requirements and ability to contribute to OCTA Board and Committee system?

- Has set meetings Thursday mornings and late Monday afternoon, but overall has a lot of flexibility.

Q17: Do you have any questions for the Executive Committee?

- Thanked the Executive Committee for the opportunity to share his passions and interest in working for the Board.