

STF/STIF

October 5, 2021

2:00PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order 2:00

Present were Pete Runnels, Angie Temple (via phone), Lisa Moody, Darlene Needham, Linda Kaesemeyer, Kathie Oatman, Jane Parks and Angela Lamborn.

STF meeting called to order:

- Linda moved to approve minutes from 2/25/20, Angie T. second and all were in favor.
- Angie L. reported she had spoken to Kenton Dick who said the tribal bus would not be running until further notice due to COVID outbreak.
- Angie L. presented the committee with the numbers of riders for the most recent 18 months. Committee discussed significant drop of ridership due to COVID. Angie T. stated her clientele were not riding as much and she expected they would again when COVID gets more under control. Jane stated COVID has affected the number of preschool kids in class as well. She expects to see more kids when COVID is more under control and expects there to be more ridership from them as well.
- Angie L. reported ridership is down but hours of operation are remaining the same. The end result is more cost per service mile as fewer riders means fewer miles. This bump is reported and we will all look forward to riders going up so cost goes down.
- Angie L. explains the award of the grant to have a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans Project conducted. Lisa will be contacting the agencies who provide the service and attempt to get bids for the county project. The committee will be active participants and local contacts for whoever is hired to complete the work.
- Angie L. presented the plans for the three buses, two five passenger transit vehicles for more cost effective travel for smaller passenger load and one

metro link shuttle bus to replace the route bus. Hybrid, electric/gas fuel source for all three as a next step to full electric. Jane asked about a trolley bus model for the route bus. Angie explained she had checked into it and found there were no shorter versions of the standard model. To run the standard model, we would need drivers who have a CDL as they are too long for regular licenses. The bus will be wrapped and look very different than the other buses and the plan is to make it fun and noticeable.

- Angie L. let the committee know that the organization was going through a rebranding process and that the name of the transit side will most likely change with the organization. The name for the organization will be Harney Hub. A version of Harney Hub Transit or Hub Transit will be discussed as plans finalize. She asked the committee to give input as the process move forward if they have any thoughts.
- Round table discussion Kathie stated that while looking at new vehicles she preferred side loading ramps to rear loading ramps. Her experience is that rear loading means everyone is in the street to load and side is simply safer.
- Kathie stated that she and her husband are not riding as much as they used to because some of the drivers are driving too fast and they just don't feel safe. They live on Foley Drive and one driver goes too fast, crosses over the yellow line and is jerky around the corners. She has safety concerns as well as simply driver consideration for riders. Darlene and Lisa discussed the ability to put drivers in wheelchairs and have them experience riding on the buses. Kathie suggested using blindfolds as well so they can experience the feeling when sight impaired. They encouraged Kathie to call immediately if the issue continues as it shouldn't.
- Angie T. said she would like to talk with management about state sponsored rides for her clients. This will be followed up on.

STF meeting Adjourned 2:25

STIF meeting 2:26

- Angie L. opened by discussing the bench at every stop project. This project has not started yet. Pete said the community benches lead has changed to Dan Porter at the music store. Pete will get contact information out. Linda

asked about maintenance as that was discussed as a barrier to full bus stops. Angie L. said it is an issue. The hope is that benches will not be an issue like a stop would be. Angie T. suggested contacting community corrections and seeing about a partnership to keep the benches accessible with their help. Discussion regarding placement ended with the decision that the cities would be the first contact for bench placement at the stops.

- Angie L. asked Angie T. if rides to athletic events were still needed. Angie T. said the school district is offering bus rides for trips home so it is no longer a need. Angie L. said more and more teens are aware of the free curb to curb rides and they utilized the opportunities quite a bit over the summer.
- Angie T. asked about the ability to have a unlimited rides pass purchase sort of option as her consumers are not great at keeping track of a punch card. Lisa and Darlene talked about the “card in a box” option in place, in that the rider can buy a card and it stays in the office with their name. and the dispatcher tracks the rides and when it gets low they or their representative are notified. Angie said this system would actually work great for her consumers too. Angie L. reported they had not gotten the extra five rides for a \$20 card in place but that it will be up and going soon.
- Linda suggested advertising to purchase transportation passes for loved ones for Christmas gifts. Discussion that it could be advertised in the November/December senior center newsletter.
- Hop on deviated fixed route is still running though ridership remains down.
- Lisa asked the group about a project to focus on rides to and from work at no cost to the rider. Current biennium projects have been identified but it is something to keep in the parking lot for the next biennium. Until then the organization can take action on a case by case basis.
- Pete stated the County has purchased a mobile clinic that will go to rural communities and homes to get to people who can't get to town. Patients will just need to have the ability to get from their home to the vehicle.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned @ 2:49

Respectfully submitted,