

STF/STIF

August 23, 2018

3:00

- Present were, Linda Kaesemeyer, Cathy Oatman, Darlene Wingfield, Darlene Needham, Pete Runnels, Chelsea Harrison, and Angie Lamborn. Absent were, Jane Parks and John Barrett.
- Darlene W. nominated Cathy as chair, she accepted the nomination, Linda 2nd and all were in favor. Darlene N nominated Darlene W. as vice chair, she accepted and Linda 2nd with all in favor.
- Angie explained the difference in focus between the STIF committee and STF committee. The difference of communities of poverty and seniors and people with disabilities. The committee agreed that the two focuses ride together and use the same transportation system. The blending of service means it makes sense to hold the meeting jointly discussing all riders as needed rather than adjourning one meeting and opening a second. Kathy moved to have the meeting be jointly held and Pete 2nd with all in favor.
- Angie explained the changes in the bylaws to reflect the joint missions of both funding sources and their requirements. She specifically read the community definition for a high poverty area. She explained that the bylaws would need to be accepted by the county court as the final step in the process. Darlene W. Moved to approve the bylaws and Darlene N. 2nd with all in favor.
- Discussion regarding the deviated fixed route opened with Darlene N. sharing the experience in dispatching. She said the route gives folks a choice if they call last minute and can't ride the door to door. She said she and drivers are giving out a lot of brochures to show the stops. We did move one stop from in front of the Kids Club to down the street. We also moved a stop from Old West Federal Credit Union to Ponderosa Village and one from Gino's Gym lot to Washington Park. Pete mentioned a shelter discussion in Burns. Angie explained the tribe had obtained a grant for four shelters and she knew two are going in at the tribe and two in spots in

town. The committee agreed that shared use would be a good thing. As they become a reality that will be explored. Committee discussed possible changes in highway and how that might affect the route. There was discussion about making the stops be on the road and signed at the corners rather than in private lots etc. Pete gave the name of Paul Woodworth with ODOT as a contact for future street changes. The committee agrees that getting into the front end of the changes is a desirable place with the upcoming changes/improvements.

- Angie and Darlene shared that they learned that maintenance and snow removal etc. for covered shelters is the responsibility of the service. Dial-A-Ride doesn't have the budget or manpower for this sort of responsibility. The committee agreed that rather than shelters we should start with bus stop signs similar to what are seen in bend. They agree a project of signs is a good step after learning about the future of the street improvement project. There was a suggestion that the route could change from Hines Park to the Gazebo across the street which would provide some shelter for those waiting to catch the bus.
- Angie explained that STIF requires several years of planning for projects to meet funding. This requires budget work and projects specific to addressing community need. Once projects are decided on there will need to be a public comment period either on the WEB or a meeting or both. She shared the projects currently in the works, including the bus barn, two new buses for out of town travel and improved suspension on the four most recent vehicles purchased. She also discussed the decrease in staff due to budget. The fact that the deviated fixed route use is helping and service is growing but that service hours and miles are half what they were last year at this time because utilization out grew the budget. Part of the STIF funds will be used to get the previous level of service back and the Deviated route as an addition. Match for the bus barn and new buses. The covered stops removed and a wild guess on setting signs all mean there is room and a need to really plan some projects. Committee agreed to think about projects and meet again on September 28th 2:00pm to develop and prioritize projects and solidify a budget.

- Angie reported that the street is now vacated and the neighbor donated their half back for the project. Werner Arntz has been hired to engineer and architect the expansion. The project is moving forward well. She reminded the committee that the washing station will add some issues to the project but will be a good addition in the end.
- Suspension projects are changing quickly. When the grant was written we were told there were upgraded suspensions available through Western Bus for the vehicles we wanted to improve. They are telling us now that there are no upgrades. We are speaking to Burns Ford in an attempt to identify and purchase suspension upgrades through them.
- The two out of town special buses are close. The RFQs have been returned and one has been accepted. The sales persons are sending out upholstery and flooring samples to determine the order. Upon decision the factory will be notified. These buses were designed to address complaints for long distance travel. Specifically upgraded seats and change in wheel chair positions. The drivers will have cruise control and the addition of four wheel drive for winter driving over passes etc.
- Round table: Discussion regarding part of STIF focus being on 9-12 grade students and how to reach them. Pete stated he would be participating in the YAK meeting (youth) at the high school on the 30th. He will ask them for input regarding what they would see as most help.
- Chelsea talked about extracurricular activities and getting home from them. She talked about the possibility of bike racks on all the buses because there may be those who ride to school but after practice or after dark they don't ride home. Also students who go to the skate park with their bikes and parents don't want them riding on the four lane street to get to the park.
- Cathy talked about the lifts and her concern that in the new purchases we think about the heavy electric chairs and the wide chairs when ordering lifts and doing the tie downs in the floors. The committee discussed that at this time 1000lb lifts are as big as we can get. We are ordering at that size. The width of track and lifts are as wide as the chairs are made at the moment. They are tight sometimes. There was discussion as to lift placement. The

most recent vehicles are all placed in the back. Darlene N. described some of the things drivers do to get folks on and off of them. The coming two vehicles will have the lifts on the side. Snow can be an issue for either design and drivers make determinations on the ground how best to load and unload passengers safely.

- At this point there is no way to tell the deviated route bus from the dial-a-ride buses. All agree magnetic signs would be great to denote which is the route. Inking Sign Design makes magnetic signs. They will be contacted for route signs. Linda stated Home Delivered Meals could use signs too. Angie will call and order.
- Darlene N. reported that though the hours and rider numbers have decreased since the changes, she is still registering 2-3 new riders a week. She also stated that during the recent audit, she was told that a new service needs to stay in place at least a year to determine if it will work or not. It takes that long for a public service to catch on.
- Pete mentioned that Grant County doesn't charge a fair for their fixed route. Angie explained they had discussed that and that if the committee decides to try that it would not really cost the operation a lot. The best idea is to discuss it in September as a project and finance the lost revenue as a STIF project.
- Pete asked about any special route for fair. Darlene N. reported that for fair Saturday only we would be running a second bus for a door to door service to get folks to and from the fair.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned
4:10P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Angela Lamborn