

# Meeting Minutes

## Jackson Transit Action Group (TAG)

**Date:** Thursday, March 7, 2024  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
**Place:** ECIA Zoom Meeting

### TAG Members Present:

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Ronelle Clark (Chair)</b><br><i>Outreach Coord., HACAP<br/>(proxy Name)</i>     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Angela Martensen (VC)</b><br><i>Comm. Integration Supv., ITP<br/>(Carolyn Schaefer**)<br/>(Danielle Kopf**)</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chris Fee</b><br><i>Superintendent, Easton Valley<br/>CSD/Mayor of Andre<br/>(proxy Name)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Kelly Brown</b><br><i>JCEA.</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Deb Courter</b><br><i>Case Mngr, Dpt. Human Services<br/>(proxy Name)</i>                  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lynn Bopes</b><br><i>Coord. DS, EI MHDS Region<br/>(Proxy Name)</i>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Michelle Huseman</b><br><i>Housing Specialist, EIRHA<br/>(Caitlin Siemionko**)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Don Schwenker</b><br><i>RTA Board Member,<br/>Jackson County Board of<br/>Supervisors<br/>(proxy Name)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sally Davies</b><br><i>Comm. Relations Coord.,<br/>Clover Ridge Place<br/>(proxy Name)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Ted Strait</b><br><i>Manager, Maquoketa Farmers<br/>Market/Gen Pub<br/>(proxy Name)</i>                   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tom Meyer</b><br><i>Superintendent, Bellevue CSD<br/>(proxy Name)</i>                         | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chris Hoover</b><br><i>Superintendent,<br/>Maquoketa CSD<br/>(proxy Name)</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Name (Vacant)</b><br><i>Dialysis, Grand River Medical<br/>(proxy Name)</i>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Jean Hayes**</b><br><i>Chief Nursing Officer, Jackson<br/>County Regional Health Center<br/>(Pam Schoenthaler**)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Name (Vacant)</b><br><i>Case Manager, MCO<br/>(proxy Name)</i>                                |   |

### Others Present:

#### Staff Present:

- Chandra Ravada     Dan Fox     Stacie Scott     Gail Kuhle     Jack Studier

\*Non-Voting Member

\*\*Voting member by Proxy

\*\*\*Attendance by phone

## **Call to Order**

The Jackson County TAG meeting was called to order by Ronelle Clark. Introductions were made at this time.

## **Upcoming Meeting Dates and Times**

Clark explained that historically the TAG meetings are held virtually once every quarter on the first Tuesday of the month of March, June, September and December from 11-1 pm. Everyone agreed to continue with zoom meetings with the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month from 11-12.

Clark pointed out the following meeting dates and times:

Tuesday, June 6, 2024	11:00-1:00pm
Tuesday, September 5, 2024	11:00-1:00pm
December Annual meeting	TBD

## **Appointment of Board Chair and Vice Chair**

Kuhle noted the current Chair is Ronelle Clark, the Vice-Chair is Angela Martensen

Clark indicated that she would stay in the position, however if some else would like to volunteer she would be willing to step aside. There were no other volunteers at this time.

## **Agency Updates**

### **Farmer's Market**

Ted Strait said the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Farmer's Market will be starting in May. Kuhle asked Strati to send flyers advertising the market to the RTA to be posted in the Jackson County buses.

### **Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (EIRHA)**

Michelle Huseman pointed out that the waiting list is open for the Elderly and Disable units in Bellevue, Sabula and Miles properties and there is one elderly unit available in the Miles location. Huseman requested to give her a call if you know of anyone that needs housing assistance.

### **HACAP**

Clark stated that HCAP is helping individuals complete the rent reimbursement, property tax credit forms for low-income families and energy assistance programs. There is also a Crisis Program for families facing shut off at the end of April. The volunteer program for free tax preparation for low income will be starting and it is estimated that over 300 families will be served

### **Jackson County Economic Alliance**

Brown explained that on the first Wednesday of the month JCEA hosts the Wednesday are Possible meeting. The meeting is held for people to share their stories about entrepreneurship in Jackson County. The meetings highlight the challenges and opportunities for being successful entrepreneurs. JECA also held their annual partnership meeting celebrating the 35 partners and others who support the JECA.

## **Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP)**

Jack Studier (ECIA Planner I) gave a brief update of the PTP and the involvement of the Jackson Tag Committee. He explained the PTP is a document required by the Iowa DOT and identifies priorities and strategies to meet identified needs in the region that can lead to projects. The Tag committee will be consulted in the development and review of the plan. The goal of the plan is to improve transportation service, increase passenger awareness and coordination. Develop new working partnerships and future passenger transportation investments. The Draft PTP plan will be due February 1, 2025, with a final plan due May 1, 2025.

Discussion followed.

## **Grant Updates**

### **Aims Grant**

Fox explained the new dispatch software RTA had purchased through the Aim Grant still has a few issues, however staff is working diligently with the software company, HBSS to test and have those issues resolved by the end of March 2024.

Kuhle said the RTA had also applied for the United Way Grant and the AARP grant. Studier explained the United Way grant funds would use to provide additional rides and the AARP grant would be used for senior social outings. Studier noted the RTA is looking to apply for the Community Foundation, DRA, and Cottingham and Bulter grants.

## **Summer Transportation needs**

A discussion was held on numerous opportunities to provide service and the following list was created to make connections with agencies or events.

YMCA

Daycare Centers

Senior Center

Jackson Succeeding Together

The discussion continued regarding additional ways to advertise the RTA services.

Kuhle noted she and Stacie Scott have been meeting with agencies and the radio station to promote services in the Jackson County area.

Discussion followed.

## **Adjournment**

Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.