

Jackson County Transit Action Group (TAG)
Thursday, August 5, 2021 11am-1pm
ECIA Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Present: Ted Strait (Farmers Market), Ronelle Clark (ONV), Michelle Huseman (EIRHA), Sally Davies (Clover Ridge), Pam Schoenthaler (Jackson County Regional Health Center), Amanda Dupont (RTA) & Tricia Wagner (RTA)

New Mobility & Outreach Specialist, Amanda Dupont! Comes from the Homeless program at ECIA.

Agenda item #1: Service Improvement Project aka “Free & Reduced Rates” update –

Summer camps going well, increased our general public rides for summer

Funding for at least the next year – children 15 & under will continue to ride free and reduced rates stay in place (\$2 one way in rural Jackson County & \$1 one way in town Maquoketa)

The hope is that the success will be proof of the program’s worth to justify the Counties to support the program when CARES funding is depleted.

Agenda item #2: Offshore & Bellevue Service –discussed possible shuttle for both the offshore pool and farmers market with Abby and Dave Heiar.

- a. Volunteers not willing to do this service, so would need a paid RTA driver, which will require either a grant or donation (Abby does have a potential source for funding identified)
- b. Also they were having trouble getting volunteers when we first spoke, so we discussed how it would look if we ended the volunteer service
- c. In July Abbey let me know they really didn’t think we need to start the pool or farmers market services until summer 2022 and decided to table all discussions for now. FM is still in the growing phase – hopes to increase vendors and buyers in a couple years.
- d. Also the volunteers are becoming more comfortable getting back into their normal volunteer routine, so we don’t need to look at changing this now but will look at it again in a year when we are hopefully past COVID.
- e. Dave suggested setting up a meeting in January about the pool shuttle for next summer (city pool staying open until school begins this fall). Suggested Ted help Bellevue

organize their farmers market. Not accessible, will be a huge challenge for elderly and disabled. Ted will work with Carrie at the Chamber, as well as Abby at the same time on this. Vendors don't go if too hot, or rainy, and it's a problem. Also confusion about who owns the market, city or not, because its on private property.

Amanda will set up the meetings; 1) January with Abby, Dave, Chandra, and somebody from Offshore to discuss the pool shuttle service. 2) Soon for the farmers market with Ted, Carrie and Abby.

Agenda item #3: Iowa Developmental Disabilities Transportation Grant

- a. Going well, spending the funding down as planned, so should carry all three agencies through to the end of the grant period on September 30.
- b. Carolyn not in attendance, but has reported the funding has helped them tremendously, and they have been able to take their consumers on outings they would not have otherwise been able to do with so many of them at one time!

Agenda item #4: AARP Community Challenge Grant - this was to extend the service through November 2021. We were notified we were not awarded, so now will need agencies to review their budgets and identify what portion of these services they can continue with RTA. H&D's said they have found money in their budget for this, so hopefully the others will as well.

Agenda item #5: Coordination Project: Proposals and Presentations

- a. Received 4 proposals; ranking committee agreed to have all 4 present
- b. All 4 presented two weeks ago and the ranking committee has selected one which we proposed to the RTA Board yesterday; Planteteria. Leaning towards a web browser as opposed to app for the GPS bus tracking since the new website will be mobile friendly. Do need to confirm some things with our trip planning software system, RouteMatch, Dylan is checking into these things.
- c. Board approved us to move to the contract negotiations
- d. Final contract will go to RTA Board Sept 1 for approval

Agenda item #6: Getting Technical - Bylaws & new format for Agenda and Minutes

- a. Agenda – Chair will call meetings to order, ask for votes, etc.. Document is ready to start using on Feb 3, 2022
- b. Meeting minutes draft – Also will begin with Feb 3, 2022 meeting. In the process of finishing up adding titles and proxies –need some names yet for proxies. We have a Vice

Chair, Angela Martensen from ITP. Still need a rep from Dialysis and MCO's. Does anyone know Pastor Weiton, who works with the Marshallese community in Jackson County? Maybe add a consumer from ITP as a member, representing the end user as well as the disabled population.

- c. Secretarial notes will be similar to the minutes Tricia's been sending, having the details regarding discussions
- d. TAG Action Plan – optional form to use for updating everyone on to-do's/action items each person agreed to do
- e. By Laws – Tricia will send a draft with the meeting minutes, Amanda can finalize with the TAGs

Agenda item #7: Maquoketa Farmers Market RTA Rides Update (Ted & Tricia)

- a. Market is going well, as for RTA there are regulars that use the service, but not as many random riders as there were last year during COVID. Many regulars are in wheelchairs, so that makes it an extremely valuable service. 42 one-way rides to date. Tricia and Amanda will try to get out to Maquoketa before transition ends and put flyers in mailboxes. Do a PSA on radio and newspaper to remind people.

Agenda item #8:

- a. Chris Fee & Tom Meyer not on today, at a conference in Des Moines, but Tricia Emailed them and introduced them to Amanda, explaining what we are hoping to do and ask if they can help connect us with some students. Try and get it started yet this fall so we can still get some farmers market footage, and possibly some different seasons included. Talked about having a video for each individual county, and Dylan creating a mashup of all three as well.

Other Topics for Discussion:

Dave said the boards and committees he is a part of are now saying they would prefer to continue with hybrid meetings even after COVID. It makes meetings more accessible, and better attendance. Travel can be a barrier.

Next meeting: Combined/All County Meeting in Dubuque
Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
(hopefully in person at ECIA and option of Zoom)