

Jackson County Transit Action Group (TAG)
Thursday, February 4, 2021 11am-1pm
ECIA Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Present: Stephanie Sagers (JCEA), Ted Strait (Farmers Market), Mike Steines (JC Board of Supervisors), Ronelle Clark (ONV), Angela Martensen (ITP), Michelle Huseman (EIRHA), Lynn Bopes (MHDS), Chris Fee (Easton Valley CSD/Preston), Sally Davies (Clover Ridge), Tom Meyer (Bellevue CSD) & Tricia Wagner (RTA)

Agenda item #1: Update on Service Improvement Project – Surveys

- a. General public is taking advantage of the reduced rates. As summer comes and people are vaccinated, we want to promote this to parents with children at daycares
- b. Survey elderly/assisted living facilities in county, find out why not currently using RTA, and what we can do to make RTA more accessible to them. Tricia will email Sally her list of facilities in Jackson and she will add any missing. Michelle and Sally will help with the survey questions and strategy. Ronelle suggested promoting on KMAQ Just Talk (Michelle & Sally too), and also for Farmer's Market. Jackson County Pay it Forward Facebook page, post their as well, ask to be a member of the Pay it Forward Group and they will approve your information to be posted. Similarly, Bellevue Helping Hands, Paulette Wagner is founder and would be the contact (Sally will send contact info to Tricia). Post the link to these pages as well as advertising services. Get info to Chambers in Bellevue & Maquoketa also, and targeted outreach in Preston and Sabula. Try to set up volunteer drivers in that area. Have Bellevue driver go on Just Talk to help recruit volunteer drivers in Sabula and Preston. Ronelle suggested reaching out to Cities to see if they would be interested in sponsoring one day a week or month to pay for transportation to get groceries and things. Ronelle can talk to her contacts at City Halls, Wendy has good influence with the mayor in Sabula. Mike suggested getting on City Councils' agenda as well. Chris Fee will connect Tricia and Ronelle to Lynn Parker at city clerk's office in Sabula, also will find contact for Miles, will send email with that info. Tricia and Ronelle will have a call with Chris to fill Chris in on RTA services. Michelle suggested also having a Bellevue rider give a testimonial, as they are very excited about their service there.

Agenda item #2: Update on United Way Rides for Wellness Grant

- a. IVRS looking to offer the camps this summer and some things in the fall after all, so should be able to use some of their 2020 funds, but still have a lot of funding so we have been loosening up restriction on qualifying income level to allow for more individuals to

take advantage of the vouchers. Ronelle has the application and vouchers/tickets, also just added Hillcrest to list of agencies who are dispersing these. Waiting to see if will renewal is approved for 2021-22 cycle – end of April. If person has Medicaid and they didn't have a chance to call in their trip to their insurance, let dispatch know they can use the vouchers in urgent situations. We just don't want them taking advantage and using in place of Medicaid payment.

Agenda item #3: Administration for Community Living Grant under HHS through IDOT

- a. \$100,000 available from the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council to the Iowa DOT to provide transportation opportunities and services to persons with disabilities, especially those with developmental disabilities, this year – with projects starting on or after March 1, 2021, and ending on or before September 30, 2021. The local match will be provided by the Iowa DOT with State Transit Assistance (STA) Special Project funds. However, those transit agencies providing additional local match from non-federal sources will be given bonus points in project application scoring, so finding partners to assist in planning and financing these projects will be beneficial.
- b. ITP, H&D and ARC, and Unlimited Services have been asked to partner with RTA on the grant for transportation for their clients.

Agenda item #4: TAG Structure – New Member, Chris Hoover, Maquoketa CSD;

- a. Missing Members – Dialysis and RMC. Lynn Bopes sent an email to Dawn Rude and Jean Hayes, not heard back yet. Moving to new location in March, so probably preoccupied. Lynn will follow up after the move. Not as accessible by foot, so will likely need transportation. Dialysis unit is not moving though, its separate from the hospital (not Grand River anymore, it's a for profit stand alone operating in a wing of present hospital). Looking for a location in Maquoketa. Tricia will call and see who would be the Dialysis contact, Lynn will follow up with the hospital. Sally has phone number for Dialysis will email to Tricia.

Agenda item #5: Select Vice Chair (Ronelle Clarke) – Angie Martensen graciously volunteered!

Agenda item #6: Coordination Project: AIM Selection Committee

- a. Waiting for contract from FTA so we can write and post the RFP
- b. Looking for 2 members from each TAG, plus 1 from RTA board (RTA staff will remain neutral), to join the selection committee for selecting the vendor. No volunteers today, Tricia will email those not on the meeting today and offer the opportunity.

Agenda item #7: Maquoketa Farmers Market 2021 (Ted Strait)

- a. \$458.25 remaining on Community Foundation Disaster Recovery Fund grant (able to tack on to existing runs most weeks, plus a couple weeks there were weather issues and ended early)
- b. Will apply for balance of the cost for 2021 through the Community Foundation again.
- c. Ronelle said we are always welcome to apply to Community Services for this as well if needed.
- d. Service wasn't used as much in 2020 because of COVID, but there were regular riders and some in wheelchairs who would not have been able to get to market otherwise. Ronelle said to make sure and include that in the grant application, it will be very meaningful to the review committee. Michelle suggested getting a testimonial from one of these people using the service, even go on the radio and promote the service. Quality of service verses quantity, and people will come. Ted pointed out this is year three and hopefully more people will have heard about it. Tricia will be able to go out and personally deliver flyers in mailboxes and such.

Agenda item #8: YouTube Video

- a. Would like to create a subcommittee, and involve other TAGS. Ronelle volunteered to be on the subcommittee!

Next meeting: Thursday, May 6, 2020 11 AM – 1 PM (Zoom)