

**BIG RAPIDS DIAL-A-RIDE PUBLIC TRANSIT
LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
APPROVED MINUTES
January 12, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chairman Gordon Telfer.

PRESENT: Gordon Telfer, Mary Vogt, Ginny Spedowske, Mary Sautter

ABSENT: Merrilee Hill-Kennedy

STAFF: Dawn Fuller, DART Transportation Supervisor, Roger Schneidt, Deputy Director of Public Works, Paula Weipert, Council Secretary

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Motion by Ginny Spedowske, seconded by Mary Vogt, to approve the October 13, 2015 minutes with corrections. Motion passed.*

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Discount Ticket Sales Update: Dawn reported on discount ticket book sales at the Dial-A-Ride office and from bus drivers for the year. The information presented reflects ticket books that are purchased during the first 6 business days of each month. These ticket books are sold at a 20% discount.

There was some discussion concerning MOTA picking up and delivering within the City limits. Dawn explained that this would not be allowed. MOTA is allowed to pick up outside the City and deliver within the City and vice versa. She will check with MOTA on the possibility of this having happened and will report back next meeting.

Passengers Update and Revenue Update: Dawn presented the Council members with the quarterly update on total passenger data. The data shows that ridership has increased from the prior 3 fiscal years. The fluctuation in passenger #'s can be caused by many factors such as weather, school schedules, etc...

Safe Ride: Dawn reported that overall numbers look good. This program is successful and will continue.

Quarterly Report: Dawn presented the quarterly report which reflects the total numbers of passengers broken into categories of ridership; regular, senior, disabled, etc.... Dawn sends this report to the State on a quarterly basis. She reported that fuel costs are still way down thus saving money.

Ferris Shuttle - Update: Dawn reported that the contract with Ferris expires in May. She is looking to renew as the program has been quite successful and she would like to see it continue.

Staffing Issues: Dawn reported that she has hired a part time driver who also drive for MOTA. In process of hiring another who used to work for MOTA. With these 2 additions, she will be at full staff. She reported on all of the meetings that she has had concerning her staffing issues that she has had. Currently there will be no changes for full-time status.

FY 2017 Accessibility Plan: Dawn presented to the members for approval, the Big Rapids Dial-A-Ride Public Transportation Accessibility Plan for fiscal year 2017 Annual Application for Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Motion by Mary Vogt, seconded by Mary Sautter, to approve the City's 2017 Accessibility Plan and submit the plan to the Michigan Department of Transportation. Motion passed.

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS:

Mary Sautter spoke on the problem that she is seeing with vehicles parking in the downtown bus stop. The signs were recently delivered to the City and need to be installed.

Dawn spoke on the aging of the bus fleet and the need for more maintenance and upkeep.

Mary Sautter inquired about the drainage problem along the Maple Street side of the Nisbett building. Roger spoke on this issue and would like to have it discussed further at the next meeting.

Roger updated the members on the bridge construction project. The project is on schedule and will be completed by the end of June 2016.

ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting will be April 12, 2016 at 9:00 A.M in the Nisbett Building downtown.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Paula Weipert.