

**BIG RAPIDS DIAL-A-RIDE PUBLIC TRANSIT
LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
APPROVED MINUTES
October 11, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 9:13 A.M. by Acting Chairman Mary Vogt.

PRESENT: Mary Vogt, Mary Sautter, Merrilee Hill-Kennedy

ABSENT: Gordy Telfer

STAFF: Dawn Fuller, DART Transportation Supervisor, Paula Weipert, Council Secretary

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dawn reported that she had only received one complaint which was during the Meijer parking lot resurfacing project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Motion by Merrilee Hill-Kennedy, seconded by Mary Sautter, to approve the July 12, 2016 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. Sales are up from the same time last year.

Passengers Update and Revenue Update: Dawn presented the Council members with the quarterly update on total passenger data. The data shows that ridership and revenue has decreased slightly from the same time last year. The fluctuation in passenger #'s can be caused by many factors such as weather, school schedules, etc... Another possible reason is the new agreement that the City has with MOTA and the demand response they now offer.

Safe Ride: Dawn reported a slight decrease in ridership however, 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 numbers are up and it is a very good program. The contract has been renewed for 2 years with a 1% increase each year.

Building Grant Update:

Dawn reported that she should be receiving a letter from the State about the \$250,000 that is intended to be used on the building addition. This addition is for bay areas to park all the buses inside.

Staffing:

Dawn is still experiencing a great deal of difficulty in finding drivers. The new federal regulations are causing some issues when it comes to training. One is that you can't have any passengers on board while in training.

Merrilee inquired as to the number of hours required for training in which Dawn stated that 80 hours is required.

For a full time employee, it would cost the City approximately \$20,000 for their insurance. This is the main reason for not hiring full time. A part time employee can work no more than an average of 30 hours per week, otherwise you must provide insurance.

Survey Results:

Dawn reviewed the results with the Council members. Received very positive results.

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS:

Merrilee inquired as to the numbers of "no-shows". Dawn said that there are on average 50 to 70 per week. A person is charged if they have 3 or more "no-shows" in a month.

Dawn reported that there are an average of 1000 to 1200 per week for demand response.

Dawn spoke on the retirement of Ron Schalow at MOTA. Mike Tilman is Interim Director. Mary Vogt is the City Liason on the MOTA Board. Mary spoke on what a good experience it has been being involved in both busing systems.

ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting will be January 10, 2017 at 9:00 A.M in the Nisbett Building downtown.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 A.M.

Minutes submitted by Paula Weipert.