

FLORENCE TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 19, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm by Vice Chair Patton.

ROLL CALL

Committee members: Don Patton, Jane Ashley, Stan Easter and Sandi Young were present.

Ex-officio members: Josh Haring (River Cities Taxi) was present. John Ahlen and Cosette Rees, LTD were present.

City Councilors: None

Support Staff: Glen Southerland, Florence Planning Department, was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Young moved to approve, second by Ashley. By voice, all ayes. Agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS None.

Introductions: Rees introduced Hekimoglu's replacement, John Ahlen. He spoke briefly about his background, and said he was forward to working with the TAC, as well as City and Rhody Express staff.

ROUTE CHANGES UPDATE/OPERATIONS

Statistics: Haring reported that the October ridership was similar to that in September. He said that so far, weather has not made a difference. We have a solid base ridership and some new riders, perhaps due to the various community events where the bus has been publicized. He said that Rick xxxxx, the present Rhody Express driver, has decided to stay in Florence so he will continue to drive the bus. He also said that the bus is having engine problems and may be out of service for a period of time.

McKenzie/Willamette: Easter requested an update on the McKenzie/Willamette request for service. Haring replied that route conditions have not changed. The difficulty lies in pulling back into Hwy 101 traffic in a timely manner to preserve the one hour route. He said that they are referring potentially qualified riders for ADA certification to allow taxi service in lieu of bus service. There was discussion of occasional stops if the Rhody Express were to again become a deviated route. The bus could then respond to calls for occasional service. McKenzie/Willamette is the only official request for new service, so would be at the top of the list for consideration if route changes are made. Rees said she would check on whether there have been any rule changes that would again allow deviated service.

PROMOTIONS AND MARKETING

Senior Expo: Haring said that this event has had the biggest effect on ridership of all the community events. Ashley will be at the table in the morning, and Young in the afternoon. They challenged the other TAC members to work at the table as well. Haring said that more safety lights are needed. We also need brochures. We can copy a few locally for the Expo event. He will look into ordering tote bags for the event as well.

OTHER.

Aging in Place: Southerland said that, for a first time event, he thought it was successful, with about 500 attendees. He was pleased with very prominent location of the Rhody Express table near the entrance to the display hall.

Florence to Yachats: Rees said that implementation of this new service is proceeding, but that service will not begin in January 2017. The Yachats bus will not have arrived by then, and route planning may not be completed.

FUTURE MEETING DATE

There was discussion about moving to an every other month schedule during the winter, i.e. meeting only in November, January and March. Young moved in favor of this change, second by Patton. By voice, all ayes. Motion approved.

Next meeting: November 16, 2016 at 1:30 at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE TAC ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2016.

Don Patton, Vice Chairperson