



**Local Advisory Committee**

Thursday, December 17, 2020 12:00PM

via Zoom

**Minutes Approved as Presented June 17, 2021**

**Members:**

Matt Goodlin – Chair **Absent**

Richard Heniser **Absent**

Bev Popp **Present**

Jeannette Feeheley **Absent**

Doug Durand – Vice Chair **Present**

Ingemar Johansson **Present**

Ruth Ann Tyler **Absent**

Dorene Strang **Present**

Jerry Heiman **Present**

**Welcome and Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 12:20

**Roll Call**

**Public Comment** None

**Review and Approve Agenda** *Motion* by Jerry, seconded by Ingemar, to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Jerry, Dorene, Doug, Bev, Nays: None

**Review and Approve March 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes** *Motion* by Doug, seconded by Dorene to approve the March 5, 2020 meeting minutes as presented, Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Dorene, Ingemar, Jerry, Bev Nays: None

**Action:**

**Appoint Chair/Vice Chair** Dorene volunteered to serve as Chair, Ingemar volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. *Motion* by Doug with support by Jerry to appoint Dorene as Chair and Ingemar as Vice Chair. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Jerry, Dorene, Ingemar, Bev, Doug Nays: None. Jessica thanked Matt and Doug for their years of service as Chair and Vice Chair.

**Approval of 2022 Vehicle Accessibility Plan** *Motion* by Doug to approve the 2022 Vehicle Accessibility Plan as presented. Support by Jerry. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Ingemar, Jerry, Doug, Bev, Dorene Nays: None

**Discussion:**

**Annual Report** Benzie Bus had another successful year, despite ridership decreasing due to COVID. Face mask coordination and grocery shopping/delivery stand out as great examples of community collaboration.

**FY2022 Plans: Volunteer driver program for specialized medical rides; Frankfort IronMan**

Jessica discussed plans to start a Rides to Wellness program for medical appointments. Funding will not be available to expand the New Freedom grant and request funds for a volunteer program as originally planned. Frankfort will be the host city of the 2021 IronMan. Jessica is now on the Frankfort Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.



**Service Updates:**

**Ecolane Launch - App/Self-Service Portal** Ecolane launched successfully in August. Dispatchers/Drivers are still learning the system. Some services have changed and we continue to tweak the system to provide the best experience for our riders.

**COVID Response/Ridership Statistics** We have seen a substantial decrease in ridership due to COVID closures, particularly local schools and The Gathering Place. There is also a decrease in numbers because riders no longer have to transfer buses.

**Food Pantry Delivery** Requests for delivery of food boxes from local pantries have increased. Mondays and Wednesdays we now deliver boxes from BACN and the Drop In Center. The number of deliveries had begun to impact riders who sometimes ended up being on the bus longer due to deliveries. It is working well so far.

**New Vehicles: Electric bus; Trolley** Benzie Bus was one of six transits in the state of Michigan to receive a Low/No grant to purchase 2 electric vehicles. We also received additional funding from MDOT which we plan on using to purchase a trolley.

**2021 Meeting Schedule: March 18; June 17; September 16; January 6**

Meeting adjourned at 12:58PM

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Committee Chair

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Date