



Local Advisory Committee
Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:00PM
Benzie Bus Station

Minutes approved as presented January 4, 2022

Members:

Dorene Strang – Chair **Present**
Bev Popp **Absent**
Jeannette Feeheley **Absent**
Jerry Heiman **Present**

Ingemar Johansson – VC **Present**
Doug Durand **Present**
Ruth Ann Tyler **Present**
Matt Goodlin **Present**

Welcome and Call to Order Meeting called to order at 12: 00PM

Roll Call Quorum present

Public Comment None

Review and Approve Agenda *Motion* by Ingemar to approve agenda as presented Support by Doug. All ayes, *motion carried*

Review and Approve December 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes *Motion* by Ingemar to approve December 17, 2020 meeting minutes as presented Support by Jerry. All ayes, *motion carried*

Action:

LAC Membership - Thank you to Richard Heniser Bev informed Jessica that Richard Heniser would no longer be able to participate in the Local Advisory Committee. Jessica thanked Richard for his years of service. Benzie Bus will send him a thank you card.

LAC Meeting Times Jerry Heiman delivers Meals on Wheels on Thursdays. The Committee discussed new meeting times. *Moving forward, meetings will be held on **Tuesdays at Noon.***

Discussion:

HealthRides Benzie Bus and Benzie Senior Resources are partnering on a new non-emergency medical transportation service. This service will be personalized, door-to-door transportation to medical appointments and other approved wellness-destinations including pharmacies. Jessica applied for \$56,000 from the National Rural Transit Assistance Program to purchase the Ecolane Centers Portal which would allow Benzie Senior Resources and future partners to manage trips for their clients. Funds would also be used to promote the new service, including possibly digital ads such as television or radio ads. Award will be announced on June 18th.

Ecolane Jessica and Chad have been doing some testing in Ecolane for a Frankfort Zone bus as well as the Frankfort Flex. Results from the Rider Survey in May indicated that riders would like to see the Flex and the TCX return. Jessica expects an announcement to be made soon regarding those services.



Service Updates:

COVID-19 Recovery Ridership continues to increase slowly. There's been an influx of summer student riders - Benzie Central SEEDS is holding a daycamp program through July 29th. There also appear to be more students attending summer school.

New Vehicles: Electric bus; Trolley Benzie Bus received funds for 2 electric buses which will be purchased in the next two years. Jessica discussed a "sunset-themed" trolley which was purchased with funds saved during COVID by furloughing staff and reallocating those funds for capital expenditures. The three-season trolley should be delivered mid-July and will be used mainly for the Crystal Lake Express

Summer Services - Pit Spitters, Crystal Lake Express, Bike n Ride, Music in the Park, 4th of July Jessica discussed the many services being offered this summer. The Crystal Lake Express will now operate on Thursdays to accommodate Music in the Park (July 1 - August 26) A new Bike n Ride pamphlet was presented. Volunteers are needed to hand out frisbees in the Beulah 4th of July parade.

Future Meetings: September 14; January 4

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 12:55PM

Recording Secretary

Date