



Local Advisory Committee

Friday, December 8, 2017 12:00PM

Benzie Bus Station

Minutes Approved as Presented March 9, 2018

Members: Matt Goodlin – Chair **Absent** Doug Durand - Vice Chair **Present**
Mary Carroll **Absent** Ingemar Johanssen **Present**
Richard Heniser **Present** Ruth Ann Tyler **Absent**
Bev Popp **Present** Dorene Strang **Present**

Staff Present: Jessica Carland

Public Comment None

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

Review and Approve September 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes Motion by Dorene, support by Richard to approve the September 15, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. All ayes, ***motion carried***

Annual Report Our Annual Report is completed. Managers have been on Tour, presenting the reports to the 19 Benzie County Villages/Townships. The feedback we have received has been positive

LAC Membership Discussion over 3 possible new committee members. Jeannette Feeheley; Jerry Heiman; Irene Nugent. **Motion** by Dorene, support by Ingemar, to appoint Jeannette Feeheley, Jerry Heiman, and Irene Nugent to the committee. All ayes, ***motion carried***

Appoint Chair/Vice Chair Motion by Doug to postpone the appointments until the March meeting. Support by Dorene. All ayes, ***motion carried***

Vehicle Accessibility Plan Includes plans for implementation of a monthly commuter card and universal reduced fare card; possible Elberta passenger shelter; and service expansion into Empire or Copemish areas. We will also be disposing of some older vehicles and replacing them with Ford Transits.

Magical History Tour 2018 Planning for the next MHT has begun. We've already received a \$400 sponsorship from the Benzie County Visitors Bureau. We're thinking of one loop, on Fridays and Saturdays.

Night Owl/Christmas Parade We'll be doing the late-night Night Owl service again on New Year's Eve. We'll also be participating in the Beulah Christmas Parade this weekend.

Tablets The drivers are now using tablets instead of paper manifests. The transition has been fairly smooth and the staff have been amazing as they adjust to the new technology. The tablets will help dispatchers be more efficient, leaving more time for routing and other tasks.



Prescription Pick-Up We're now promoting our prescription pick-up and delivery service. Benzie Bus has offered package delivery for 10 years.

Mobility Manager

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation In FY2017 we provided 18% more medical rides than the year prior. Jessica has been working with Centra Wellness to increase ridership. We continue to work on getting a fair reimbursement rate from DHHS.

Job Access and Reverse Commute In the last several months Jessica has done outreach at Cherry Republic, Crystal Mountain, and Munson. Thanks to JARC we provided 18% more rides to work than last year. We continue to promote this service and look for ways to improve. Dorene suggested the bus shelter at Ric's be moved to the gas station. Jessica will pass the recommendation on to BATA.

Regional Connections One of the Board's Visionary Goals is to promote connections to Grand Rapids via Indian Trails. We're talking with Cadillac/Wexford Transit Authority to improve this connection for Benzie County residents. We're also working on promoting our connections to Cherry Capital Airport via Benzie Bus/BATA.

Universal Reduced Fare Card Pilot Program Benzie Bus is participating in a pilot program which will make it easier for reduced riders to receive a reduced rate across different transit systems. No launch date as of yet.

Commuter Pass Benzie Bus will soon offer 31-day bus passes for frequent riders. We're still working out the details. Dorene suggested the "31-days" not start until the first day the card is used so riders can purchase multiple passes at a time.

Future Meeting Schedule: March 9; June 15; September 7; December 14

Recording Secretary

Date