

WeGo Access Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

January 27, 2021

1:00pm-3:00pm

WeGo Access Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Call to Order by Natasha Wilkins, APAC Chair at 1:06pm

Roll Call

Natasha Wilkins

Lorri Mabry

Sheila Hansen

Sheila Hansen

Linda Brown

Roger Womack

April Meredith

Bill Zagorski

John Forbes

Dan Freudberg

Debbie Chadwick

Tanesha Durham

Patricia Vallaadres

Marilyn Yokley

Thomas Hinkson

Walter Searcy

Public Comments

3-minute limit per person

April Meredith made a public comment stating that one of her consumers is having issues with Nashville Public library making customers stand outside while waiting for Access transportation and has been threatened with calling the police for loitering.

Meeting Minutes

Tom Hinkson made a motion to approve minutes for September and Bill Zagorski seconded the motion for September meeting minutes. The minutes were approved for September. Tom Hinkson made a motion to approve minutes for October and Sheila Hansen approved motion to approve October minutes were approved.

WeGo Update

Marilyn Yokley Paratransit Manager

Trips are down about 40% from last years and Access On Demand is down by 10-15% overall pre COVID improvements on on-time performance. All the drivers are required to wear a mask while passengers are on board. Any complaints about operators not wearing a mask is address as soon as notified. WeGo vehicles only 2 people on board vehicle no more than 4 people and one person in a wheelchair. Running about 60% of our routes from last year as the city starts to open back up.

COVID-19 Update

Weekly call to update staff WeGo still has a mask mandate if any issues with passengers not wearing a mask it is addressed by security and may be asked if they can wear a face shield if unable to wear a mask.

We are providing transportation to Nashville residents to Lentz health department for people who need transportation to receive COVID vaccine. All transportation is scheduled with Metro health department when scheduling vaccine appointment.

Sign language proposal Tabled until next meeting.

Discussion on Grocery Delivery Proposal

APAC Committee and WeGo Staff

Dan is asking for APAC to provide feedback to WeGo

Could use quick ticket credit for cost of yearly grocery delivery service.

Quick Ticket pilot grocery deliveries wouldn't be until later this summer

Tom Hinkson stated that Walmart has a program called Walmart+ it cost \$99.00 a year free grocery delivery and free shipping. Tried to reach out to Shipt and Instacart was not successful but suggested we can set up a simpler program for Access passenger and give them a credit on Quick Ticket for grocery delivery.

The quick Ticket account can be refunded for purchase of grocery delivery service to encourage use and reduce ridership.

Natasha Wilkens asked if Wal-Mart website is accessible and Roger Womack replied that it is accessible. Natasha also asked if Shipt and Instacart are accessible as well.

Tom Hinkson suggest that Proposal requires a one-year subscription for delivery service.

Natasha Wilkens suggested that committee members speak to peers and people they support to discuss the proposal to get feedback if they would support the Grocery Store delivery service.

Tom Hinkson will send a modified summary of the grocery proposal to send to consumers for feedback.

Dan Freudberg Suggested that we could start Grocery delivery service as a one-time quick ticket roll out incentive give customers a credit if they purchase of grocery delivery service.

Committee Bylaws Updates

Debbie Chadwick

Natasha Wilkens asked how did APAC do Bylaw reading changes in the past? Debbie Chadwick stated that changes to the Bylaws to MTA board and the minutes were approved. The bylaw changes were presented to the board by Felix Castrodad or Eric Beyer. Walter Searcy stated that APAC is not required to ratify or submit changes to the board.

Linda Brown read over the bylaws with recommended changes Natasha did some research and recommended that we change elderly to older adult has replaced in bylaws. The purpose of APAC in bylaws will mirror the purpose of APAC according the WeGo Transit sit and will read as follows

The Access Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) serves in an advisory capacity to WeGo Public Transit. Its purpose is to provide the WeGo with recommendations on the its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), facilitate a dialogue between WeGo and those with disabilities in the community, and increase the use of the WeGo services by people with disabilities.

John Forbes mentioned that he recommended for some APAC member to meet virtually and electronically. John also recommended Bylaws need editing before publishing.

Walter Searcy recommended organizations make the language as board as possible. Also stated WeGo public Transit/Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Natasha Wilkens asked committee members to read over recommended changes to bylaws and bring suggestions to the next meeting to discuss.

April Meredith would like to add permanent virtual meeting to bylaws for future meetings

Growing the APAC Committee

Natasha Wilkens APAC Chair

Agencies that were recommended to join APAC are Tennessee School, DIDD, Fifty Forward, Dr. Joshua Robinson, TN School for the blind, and Autism TN. Natasha Wilkens asked for members to reach out to those agencies and potential members to see if they are interested in serving on the committee and invite them to the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm.