Voting Members in Attendance: Daniel Bullock, Terry De Spain, Brenda Fiscus, Roy Gomez, Nora Croucher, Winnie Andrews, Jeannine Hunt, and Thomas Taylor

Voting Members Absent:
Scott Ruch, Crystal Voyles, and Joe Kresse

Non Voting Staff Members in Attendance:
Angie Peters, Jodi Tool and Peggy Smith

Non Voting Members Absent:
Manny Elguera

Guest:
None

Introductions and Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. in the NEOPT Conference Room. Peggy introduced new Transit Manager Angie Peters to Council members. Roll call was taken and members introduced themselves.

Consent Agenda:
Angie called for a motion to approve the consent Agenda. Winnie made the motion to approve the consent agenda, it was seconded by Nora. The motion was carried unanimously.

Consider Martina Peck’s Application for Membership:
Angie called for a motion to except Martina Peck’s application to serve on Council as At Large Member. Thomas made the motion to accept Martina’s application. It was seconded by Brenda the motion was carried unanimously.
Manager's Report:

None

Alternative Modes Report – Jodi

Transportation Options Quarterly Report January-March 2017:

During the months of January, February, and March 2017 there were numerous projects that I worked on. These included but were not limited to working on Pedestrian Safety Safe Kids International Book Presentations at 2 schools and creating a new Pedestrian Safety Presentation for the Union County Safety Fair in April 2017. There are upcoming Bike Safety events in May in Wallowa and Baker County that were being planned and worked on. I traveled to Salem for the Quarterly meeting in February. I also worked on researching ideas for opportunities to get the word out on Transportation Options for the spring and summer season.

With the help of Deputy Adam Robb with the Baker County Sheriff’s office, we were able to reach 110 kids with Pedestrian Safety information. Each child was given a “Clifford Takes a Walk” book of their own. This is in coordination with a Safe Kids International program. The program requires the book be read by a Fireman or Police Officer. Deputy Robb as he works with the D.A.R.E. program at the Pine-Eagle School in Halfway and the Haines Elementary School was able to help me.

Annually the Union County Safe-Kids Group facilitates a Safety Fair for all Union County students. They alternate each year to cover K-3rd one year and the next year is 4th and 6th grade. They hit on different safety trainings such as Bike Safety, Bus Safety, Fire Safety, and Water Safety each year. The topics change each year, and are limited to 6 presenters. I was asked to present on Pedestrian Safety and worked on a new presentation for the Safety Fair scheduled for April 2017. The K-3rd grade group is scheduled this year and is anticipated to be close to 1400 students.

There will be Bike Safety events happening at schools in Halfway and Joseph Oregon in May. I visited with both schools and continued coordinating both projects. Billie Jo Deal with ODOT Region 5 will also be assisting with these events.

I read multiple articles on Transportation Options in Rural Areas to help encourage the participation of transportation options in Baker, Union and Wallowa Counties. I researched all of the Counties upcoming events for the spring and summer season to help make a plan to market the program better. There are information booth opportunities at events such as Watershed Festival in Wallowa County, the Union County Fair in La Grande and Miners Jubilee
in Baker City. There are also several different parade opportunities in each region to hand out promotional items and contact information for NEOTransit and the DLC Challenge as well.

I traveled to Salem in February to participate in the Quarterly Transportation Options meeting. During the meeting we were provided with new information about the upcoming 2017 DLC Challenge. In years past PacWest oversaw it, but this year ALTA Planning and Design will take over. I’m excited to see how we will grow our numbers in the next Challenge from last year. Also during the meeting I learned about Individualized Marketing which will help as I’m out trying to encourage new people to participate in these challenges. The one great disappointment for the quarter was the update on the Vanpool.

I was previously able to get a Vanpool running from La Grande to Baker City and this ran for two months, before people declined to continue due the cost rising for them individually. They later agreed that the cost was very reasonable but didn’t have the numbers to start up the Vanpool again. In December I spoke with Richard Chaves at Chaves Consulting in Baker City about the opportunity for his employees and that it could benefit him as the employer as well. He stated at that time, that they were up for bid renewal in January and would need some time to decide to proceed. If the renewal occurred, he felt that the opportunity was a good one, but asked me to follow up after the New Year. The middle of January came and they learned that the contracts would not be renewed and that the 52 employees that they had hired in Union and Baker Counties would be losing their job. Chaves worked with local Political representatives to save the jobs, but were unsuccessful.

Oregon Health Authority awarded the contracts to State run agencies in the Metropolitan areas. This was a tremendous loss for people in Eastern Oregon as it is a great loss to viable employment with great pay and benefits for our residents. Chaves Consulting has not given up on future contracts and will continue to work and add jobs to our area. I will continue to reach out to them, from time to time. I will also continue working with other larger employers and the general public to get the word out for transportation alternatives that can help as the Vanpool did for the past riders.

Jodi Tool
Transportation Options Coordinator
Community Connection of NE Oregon
April 19, 2017
Old Business

Nora asked the about the status of the shelter wrap that was discussed at previous meetings. Now that summer is approaching her concern is for clients waiting especially at the Walmart shelter. She stated it is extremely hot for passengers waiting at that shelter during the summer.

Roy stated Frank was researching different options for the shelter wrap. However, he accepted a position at ODOT before he was able to complete the research. Roy said he will share the options and contact information with Angie. Angie stated she will follow up on the wrap information.

New Business

Winnie reported on the Deviated Route

The Deviated Route has been going ¼ mile off the Fixed Route to pick up passengers then continuing back to the scheduled Fixed Route since it started.

Winnie was asked to research the Fixed Route and report back to the Council. She stated there seems to be some bugs that need worked out. However, she is still researching possibilities as well as any problems that might occur. She may have questions at the Council Meeting in May as to how the deviation works and how information is shared with drivers.

She also stated she mainly rides Fixed Route in the winter time. However she does plan to use the Fixed Route more in the summer and will report to the Council any information she learns through observation.

Adjournment

Angie called for the Motion to Adjourn. Roy made the motion it was seconded by Thomas. The Motion was carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

*Next meeting will be held in Elgin on May 17, 2017