Union County Public Transit
Advisory Council
Minutes for
June 15, 2016


Voting Members Absent:
Jeannine Hunt, Brenda Fiscus, Joe Kresse, Thomas Taylor, Crystal Voyles, Steve Ruch

Non Voting Staff Members in Attendance:
Frank Thomas, Peggy Smith

Non Voting Members Absent:
Manny Elguera, Jodi Tool

Introductions and Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 3 P.M. in the NEOPT Conference room located at 2004 E Penn Ave La Grande.

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

Frank told council members that he recently received an email from Yvonne giving her resignation to end her service with the council. Frank read the e-mail from Yvonne and his response of appreciation for the years she served as a council member. He called for a motion from council to except Yvonne’s resignation. Winnie made the motion to accept the resignation it was seconded by Terry. The motion was carried unanimously.
Consider the Annual Operations Plan Revisions

Frank told the council he would like to add a couple of changes to the Annual Operations Plan before being sent to the Board for approval. He stated that our fixed route for Saturday is creating enough rides for us to possible continue the Saturday Fixed Route service. However, the ADA transit may have only one rider sometimes none on Saturday and we are paying staff to continue to work on Saturday. Frank would like to present a deviated route to the Board for consideration for Saturday service for next year.

The other proposed change would affect Greyhound Service in the evening and weekends. He would like to propose closing our lobby at 5 p.m. when staff leave for the day. The Lobby would also remain closed on the weekends and would re-open at approximately 6 am when staff arrives in the morning.

Frank told the Council that our security service is not working out because we are still experiencing vandalism. If the vandalism stops through the process it could save the Agency $5,000 per year.

Frank called for a motion to send the Annual Operations Plan to the Board with these revisions.

Nora made the motion to approve the Operations Plan with revisions to be sent to the Board for approval. It was seconded by Daniel. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

Frank presented a copy of the FY 2017 Budget to the Council. He stated the new budget will include a new vehicle to replace one of our Mini Vans. He also told Council members his focus will be bringing our drivers pay up to a competitive wage. If this is approved through the Board it will become effective on July 1. Frank stated at some point there needs to be a complete overhaul of all salaries. Frank told members he thinks this should carry us through for at least 1 to 2 years when the all salaries can be looked at.

Frank called for a motion to send the current proposed budget to the Board of Directors. Winnie made the motion it was seconded by Nora. The Motion was carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Manager’s Report - Frank

Frank stated he just received the first draft from our Rides to Wellness Consultant. He stated it contains some compelling information. For every dollar we invest in Rides to Wellness we can expect eleven dollars in return; in terms of people we can measure. Frank told the Council we are the first in the nation doing this type of research. The final report is due next week when
the consultant meets with Frank and our Director Margaret. Frank said things will tighten up some because of the meeting with the Medical Focus group that met yesterday.

Frank shared a success story: there was a lady we transported from Wallowa County last week who we learned had a high risk pregnancy. The lady spoke no English however she was accompanied by a caregiver who spoke Spanish. Our driver delivered the client to the women’s clinic. At her appointment the doctor told her she needed to go to the hospital for some tests. They opted to do the tests the next day because the caregiver needed to be back in Enterprise and felt they could not wait for the tests. The Clinic called Frank about the Rides to Wellness Program to see if we could bring the lady back for the tests the next day. Frank called the Brokerage to see if we could be assigned the ride for the next day while he was on the phone with the Brokerage he learned that we would be the lowest rate so we were assigned the ride. As it turned out it was less expensive for us to drive to Wallowa County to the hospital and return back home than it would have been for a driver from Wallowa County to do the same transport.

We sent a Spanish speaking employee to pick up the woman the next day and she was not accompanied by her caregiver. Frank said it was fortunate that we had sent our Spanish speaking staff driver.

Frank also said we are making incredible changes in the lives of people because of this program.

**Alternative Modes Report - Jodi**

In Jodi’s absence there was no report given

**Old Business**

A Council member asked Frank the status on the shelter advertising that was discussed at a previous meeting. Frank said we are unable to do the wrap with advertising on the shelters due Public Right of Way advertising is not allowed. Frank will follow up on screens that have no advertising and report back to the Council.

At the last Council meeting there was a discussion of possibly moving the Shelter at Rivera. Winnie mentioned that the shelter at Rivera seems to be heavily used and may not be a good idea to move that shelter from its current location. She told the council as a transit rider she would check out the use of that location.

Winnie reported at this meeting she asked questions of both riders and transit drivers and found that shelter is used quite often and may not be a good idea to move it. Frank said we will probably leave the shelter at that location.
Roy told the Council one option for shelters may be from Clackamas County. Roy stated when he was doing some research he learned that they store shelters and will give them to whoever needs them. He said for the prices of a U-Haul we could possibly have a couple of those shelters. Frank will follow up on this.

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment**

Roy made a motion to adjourn at 4 p.m. it was seconded by Nora. The motion was carried unanimously.
Minutes Respectfully Prepared By,

_________________________________________________    May 18, 2016

Peggy Smith, Office Assistant

Minutes Accepted by:

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Daniel Bullock, Chairman