

Summary Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

Citizens Advisory Members present were, Harvey Riggs, Charles Evans, Charles Hogle, and Gwen Stitzell.

County Connection (CCCTA) Staff present: Anne Muzzini, Marie Knutson, and Mary Burdick

Guests: Ralph Hoffman, resident of Walnut Creek

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted, with one revision to the order. Item #6-Restructuring of Advisory Committee, was moved to follow public comment.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were accepted.

Public Comment

Ralph Hoffman relayed a conversation with Senator DeSaulnier during which, according to Mr. Hoffman, the Senator suggested that our Board of Directors should consider implementing "weighted voting" based on each jurisdiction's population ratio. Mr. Hoffmann also suggested that our board representation does not mirror the population we serve ie: low income, minority, ethnic diversity.

Restructuring the Advisory Committees

Anne Muzzini reported that a recommendation was taken to the A&F Committee to restructure the CAC and the ASC. The A&F Committee approved the recommendation to combine the two groups, and that they meet every other month. Considered in the recommendation was the difficulty both groups have in filling vacant seats, the amount of staff time that involved in facilitating two citizens groups with a declining staff, and the fact CCCTA has made vast improvements to ways in which members of the public are able to participate in the public process. The Board of Directors asked that input be solicited from both committee and report back to A&F in October.

Ms. Knutson outlined concerns expressed at the ASC being 1) the emphasis of each group is completely different, 2) timing of the meetings for both member participation, and the ability to have LINK personnel at the meetings, 3) concern over the length of the meeting if both are combined. The ASC suggested as a compromise that both groups meet every other month, yet maintain their autonomy.

CAC Committee members agreed that the focus of both groups is too different to combine without a considerable impact to staff time. Additionally, if the committee meets during daytime hours, the likelihood of retaining and attracting members will be impacted – and will diminish the voice of the fixed-route riders. The CAC agreed with the idea of reducing the number of meetings, but maintaining autonomy.

Chair Riggs expressed disappointment that this recommendation went to the A&F Committee and the Board before it was discussed with the CAC.

Update on Plans for RMS Funded Services – 10X and 98X/Changes To Rt. 25

Anne Muzzini provided a brief history of the RMS funds that currently support the Rt. 98X, and the impending loss of funds due to ridership levels not high enough to reach a 20% farebox recovery. While the route is performing reasonably well, reaching the 20% threshold would mean a doubling of the ridership. Ms. Muzzini explained that staff was looking at the possibility of creating an express route that would serve Cal State East Bay in Concord. She felt this route had a better chance of reaching the 20% farebox recovery as required by MTC. Comments express on the possible elimination of the Rt. 98 were many, and varied – and brought to light how difficult it will be for transit users trying to travel between Martinez and Walnut Creek. Ms. Muzzini will be reviewing service to determine how we can keep this route in service and meet the 20% threshold.

Changes to the Route 25 were also discussed. This route has been in the bottom tier of productivity since its inception. Staff will implement some routing changes with the December service bid.

Community Outreach

Community Outreach was previously listed as *Goals*: Includes observations from riding and talking to bus patrons.

CAC Phone Line

No messages.

CCCTA Board of Directors Meeting

Mary Burdick reported that at the September Board meeting, the Board approved the dispensing of funds for the completion of the DVC Transit Hub. The Board authorized award of contract to update the facility access plan to incorporate photo ID badges that serve as keyless entry devices. The Board also awarded the bus tire contract to Goodyear Tire & Rubber.

A&F Meeting

Ms. Knutson reported that the A&F Committee had not yet met.

O&S Meeting

Charles Hogle said the O&S Committee primarily discussed the changes to the route 98X, 25 and 10X possibilities.

MP&L Meeting

Mary Burdick reported the MP&L Committee had not yet met. All members on the MP&L will be new to the committee, so emphasis will be on informing the Committee of activities that take within the Marketing and Customer Service departments, and the staffing allocation. The Route 4 rider survey will be on the agenda, and will be provided to the Walnut Creek City Staff. Chair Riggs suggested that this survey be provided to the CAC at the next meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business

New Business

There was no new business

Committee Member Communications

Charles Hogle questioned our reference to “school” services and if regulations had changed. Ms. Muzzini answered that FTA had relaxed definitions of what constitutes “school” service. We don’t go on to school property, so we’re in compliance.

Community Events

Staff presented events for October.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20PM.

Mary Burdick, Manager of Marketing/Public Relations

Date