

Minute of March 21, 2017 Columbia County Rider Transportation Advisory Committee (CCRTAC)

In attendance:

Genell Grow, Chair
Sharon Evinger
Bill Eagle
Claudia Eagle
Charlotte Hart
Michael Ray –CC Rider Staff
Danny Hernandez – MTR Ops Mgr
Alta Lynch – Resident
Ralph Culpepper – Resident
Margaret Magruder– Board of Commissioners

Meeting Commenced at 6:30 PM.

ITEM 1: Welcome and Introductions.

Sharon opened the meeting and Began introductions. She welcomed everyone. This marked Sharon's first meeting of the TAC as the Chair. She has been a CC Rider for 12 years when there was only one stop in Scappoose.

Bill Eagle described his passion for transit and CC Rider in particular and how transit is an integral component to community development

Claudia Eagle relies on transit as she does not drive.

Charlotte discussed her previous work in Douglas County with seniors and how difficult it was considering that there were no viable transit options

Genell was happy to turn over the reins of being Chair and feel the torch has been passed to a competent new chair. She would like to see transit in Columbia County grow and would like to work toward getting more teens and young people to take transit. She also believe transit can boost community development. She wants to be a part of the change where the community understands the and why of transit and how it is good for the community.

Danny explained that through his position as Operations Manager for MTR Western, he is learning so much about how transit operates and why it is good for community building.

Margarette introduced herself as one of two new County Commissioners and that she is interested in learning about how transit works in the County. She also mentioned Michael's support of HB 3032, where he testified before a Legislative subcommittee on the importance of getting HB 3032 passed so that CC Rider can take advantage of the tax credit it has through the Department of Energy.

Alta expressed her desire to get a bus that went straight from Columbia County to the VA Hospital. She mentioned that the VA will reimburse providers of transportation for veterans for mileage.

Ralph is here to find out as much about transit as he can.

Michael discussed some of his wishes for getting CC Rider to be an example of great transit for rapidly urbanizing Columbia County.

ITEM 2: The meeting began with a quorum. The February 21, 2017 Minutes were approved.

ITEM 3: Charlotte Hart Membership to the TAC.

Charlotte gave a brief history of her previous work on various committees including her support of children's programs, teen and parent programs, the Kiwanis Children's Fair, Support of the Commission for Children and Families, which she was involved with for 10 years. Her participation on the St Helens Beautification Project, another 10 year commitment. Charlotte's husband work for many years at various Columbia County Schools.

A motion was made by Bill Eagle and Seconded by Genell Grow for acceptance of Charlotte's application to join the TAC. The motion passed unanimously. Michael stated he would forward the recommendation to the County Commissioners for approval.

ITEM 4: Michael explained various changes to the Bylaws that were recommended by County Counsel. The changes made, better reflect the intention of the TAC and better fit the intent of STF and OAR Chapter 732, Divisions 5, 10 and 20.

Genell made a motion which was seconded by Charlotte to accept the revisions made by County Counsel to the Bylaws. The motion passed unanimously. Michael will take the Bylaws before the Board of County Commissioners for adoption by Resolution.

ITEM 5: Michael gave a brief update on the progress being made toward construction of the Rainier TC and how the plans are through the permitting process and County Facilities is working on an RFP for contract letting. The City of Rainier also would like a water main along the HWY 30 frontage replaced which serves a fire hydrant. The Conty is trying to negotiate with the Fire Marshall on getting a cooperative agreement between various parties to help cover the replacement cost. Michael also gave an update on the Scappoose Park and Ride which is still not moving as fast as expected. Michael mentioned that he is looking at another possible location for the park and ride at the intersection of HWY 30 and Scappoose-Vernonia Hwy. Right now the look is very preliminary.

ITEM 6: The TAC discussed goals for CC Rider. Some important goals include the priority of becoming a Transit District with a stable source of funding. It was mentioned that this election cycle, Scappoose School District will be asking residents for money to improve city schools. This could create a situation where CC Rider is up against other important tax levies.

Another goal is to implement a reverse loop for the South County Flex Route – Line 3. This would provide better transit access for riders.

Alt mentioned an ad she heard on KOHI radio where a ride on the Lower Columbia Connector is \$8 between Astoria and Rainier and \$10 between Astoria and Portland. She was curious as to whether this means that it is \$2 dollars from Rainier to Portland, but on Line 4 and Line 1 it would be \$7. Michael explained that he hadn't heard the ad, but at any rate the \$10 from Astoria to Portland is a through price. A passenger gets a break when travelling all the way through from Astoria to Portland.

ITEM 7: The TAC discussed creating an Educational Ad Campaign in support of transit. Discussion was help that there needs to be more education on what Dial-a-Ride is, and that it is not a taxi service. There was also discussion concerning bus departure times and individual stop locations. How can we improve people's understanding of our schedule and where our transit stops are?

There was talk about having 'Mystery Riders' whose intent would be to evaluate drivers on various aspects of safely and efficiently driving a bus and providing rider information to passengers.

The TAC then discussed expanding the availability of offering ticket and pass sales through local businesses such as Ace Hardware, Fred Meyer and Safeway. Michael will look into.

ITEM 8: Michael gave a brief update on the selection of the new Transit Coordinator. He mentioned that he hopes to have someone on board in mid-April.

Motion to Adjourn was made and seconded.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:14 PM