

# Revised Minutes of November 21, 2017 Columbia County Rider Transportation Advisory Committee (CCRTAC)

In attendance:

Sharon Evinger - Chair  
Genell Grow – Past Chair  
Bill Eagle – Vice Chair  
Claudia Eagle  
Charlotte Hart  
Blanche Katz  
Ralph Culpepper – Resident  
Alta Lynch - Resident  
Michael Ray – CC Rider Staff  
Nora Brodala – CC Rider Staff  
Danny Hernandez – MTR Ops Mgr  
Rick Blevens – Operator  
Adrienne Cain – Operator  
Greg Peterson – Resident  
Aram ? – Resident

Meeting Commenced at 6:30 PM.

## **ITEM 1:** Welcome and Introductions.

Sharon opened the meeting and Began introductions. She welcomed everyone.

Sharon then asked each TAC member, for a brief introduction on why they were interested in public transit. The following is a brief synopsis.

Bill – Bill has a passion for good transit

Claudia – Claudia feels good transit is important, especially because she doesn't drive

Blanche – Being a senior with a different ability, Blanche relies on transit to do her daily living tasks. Maintains her independence.

Charlotte – Used to live in a community without transit and knows the inconvenience that having no transit options can place on a community.

Genell – Genell enjoys living in a rural community, but she also understands that even rural communities need reliable transit for those community members who need to move around and for those community members who choose to use public transit.

**ITEM 2:** Blanche made a motion to accept the October Minutes with a correction. Bill seconded. Passed unanimously.

**ITEM 3:** Sharon indicated that she was going to make a change as to how the meetings were run. One of the biggest changes was to move the Public Comments to the end of the meeting. She felt that perhaps more substantive comments would be made by the public after discussion items were thoroughly vetted. Another change Sharon want to implement is having the table for TAC members and staff with the public seated away from the table.

**ITEM 4:** Michael presented the recent ridership numbers. Ridership for October was up over September. The primary reason was October being the first full month with PCC back in session. October is statistically a high ridership month.

Michael also presented ridership numbers for Avamere. For DAR ridership for the months of September, October, and into November (21<sup>st</sup>), DAR ridership was at 107 boardings. For requests for the Flex Route (Line 3) ridership was very low at 4, for the same timeframe; with Blanche accounting for 3 of those rides. Blanche feels Avamere residents do not know or understand the process for requesting a Flex pick up.

For December, Michael indicated that he will have some numbers by demographic group.

Adrienne indicated she has witnessed an increase in ridership from Columbia City. Michael would like to work toward extending Line 3 into Columbia City.

**ITEM 5:** Michael informed the group that Chad had discussed grounds maintenance with the local Veterans organization. They had come out and did a walk around. Chad indicated that they were to submit a proposal.

Charlotte indicated that the Garden Club doesn't typically take on such projects, but they might be willing to donate plants after their events. They typically have left overs and need to offload them. The transit center could use some new plants to replace those that have been lost due to drought.

**ITEM 6:** Everyone has now received their letters of appointment to the TAC. Both Blanche and Charlotte are filling terms of previous members that left before their terms expired. This is why their letters stated terms shorter than the norm for new appointees. Genell and Sharon both received their renewal letters.

**ITEM 7:** Michael stating he would try to get the bylaws re-submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for either January or February. He hopes that this will be the final time that the bylaws need to be approved.

**ITEM 8:** The education committee discussed the great outcome of the Children's Fair and would like to focus on putting together a survey – It was felt that the survey used for the NW Connector could be used as a template.

Sharon would like to implement a public event procedure; something like an outline of responsibilities so that everyone who is participating, knows what they are doing and when they are doing it. This is to protect from miscommunication.

The slide for the theatres should be up and running for January. It is important to use colors that don't wash out when projected.

**ITEM 9:** Michael introduced a college promo that Chad created to try. The program would be a referral program where an existing student would refer a friend to try the bus. If that friend brings in the referral card and purchases a fair instrument, the referee would receive a like fare instrument. Pass for a Pass and Tickets for Tickets. Chad was looking to implement in January.

**MISC.:** Scappoose resident, Aram ? was interested in CC Rider implementing service to St Johns that would connect with Trimet. He works graveyard and feels there is an untapped market of riders that would use transit into North Portland, if it existed. These people work outside the traditional 9 – 5 work hours and work 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift.

He also questioned why CC Rider takes riders all the way into downtown Portland? He feels that CC Rider should only go as far as Sauvie Island and connect with Trimet there – or in St Johns.

There was much discussion around his idea. Sharon and Michael indicated that there would need to be information collected as to how many potential riders such service could reach; what would the hours of operation be; and how frequent would the service need to be. All of these questions will need to be answered so a basic cost can be determined before service would actually begin – if it all penciled out.

Sharon thanked Aram for bringing this to our attention and would like him to help in gathering any information that he can. Michael indicated that he would contact the Oregon Employment Department and see what numbers they have around this issue.

**ITEM 10:** Michael gave an update on the Rainier Transit Center. The cost has come in at \$400,000 over budget. Michael indicated that Casey Garrett – Columbia County Facilities is working with the contractor to bring the cost down. Some of the suggestion being floated include a redesign of the building, using different materials, and a possible remodel of the existing structure. There is a lot that needs to be accomplished and not a lot of time. The City of Rainier will need to be brought into the loop, as well as the Connect Oregon Committee.

Sharon would like to write a letter to the editor. She would also like letters to come from TAC members. TAC letters would need to go through Karen Kane, the County PIO. Letters written as a private party can go straight to the editor.

Blanche suggested that High School Journalism students be asked to write.

**ITEM 11:** More discussion on the One-for-All bus schedule format. Michael indicated he has been experimenting and is finding it difficult because of the radial form of our service and the number of routes CC Rider has. Michael feels the format would probably end up being the size of a fold-out highway map. He will continue to develop a format that might work. And will bring it to an upcoming meeting.

Blanche thought a booklet might be of use. Kind of similar to the old Thomas Guides.

**ITEM 12:** CC Rider is still working on a good method of displaying routes on our older buses that do not have working overhead destination signs. Danny suggested that perhaps magnetic signs would work. They are easy to transfer between buses and they don't need to be pasted in a window where they can possible block sight lines. Michael believes that magnetic signs just might be the answer and will look into it.

**ITEM 13:** Theatre ad is scheduled to go to both area theatres for January.

**ITEM 14:** The TAC discussed the important of tracking hours spent doing TAC business. All hours by TAC members can be used as match for grants. A tracking system will be implemented beginning in December.

**ITEM 15:** December is the month that elections for Chair and Vice-Chair should occur.

**ITEM 16:** Della Fawcett's membership was voted on and unanimously approved. Dell will attend the December meeting.

**ITEM 17:** There was discussion on how to get a student interested in serving on the TAC. One proposal that could easily be implemented is advertising on the PCC bus and on the Portland bus. Membership recruitment ads should also go to the PCC and PSU and possible go into the student papers.

Sharon would like to cap the membership at 9. Current membership is at 7. Having 9 members would accommodate a student representative and a representative from Vernonia.

Blanch suggested getting an Eagle Scout. They could do this as a requirement for one of their Merit Badges.

Danny thought a 'younger' Veteran would also make a good member.

Ralph Culpepper suggested going to the First Friday Breakfast for Veterans held at the Village Inn. The contact is Tom Ford.

**ITEM 17B:** Rick Blevens inquired about getting a shelter at 1<sup>st</sup> and Prairie in Scappoose. Michael indicated that the shelters have to show an engineering study that they could survive 130mph winds before the city would allow them to be installed. Also, an agreement needs to be worked out with the owner of the parking lot to place a concrete pad for the shelter to sit on as the sidewalk is not wide enough.

**ITEM 18:** Ralph had a question concerning history of Scappoose stops. Why it was taking so long to get the shelters placed. Michael and others tried to impress on him that you cannot just put them up. Each jurisdiction has a process that needs to be followed and they can deny you permission.

**ITEM 19:** 8:33 PM – Bill Eagle mads a **Motion to Adjourn**. Claudia seconded and the meeting closed.

## ATTENDANCE LIST

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