

Johnson County Paratransit Advisory Committee

Minutes

May 26, 2020

Phone in

Present:

Members: Jerri MacConell, Vicky Robrock

Ex-Officio: Marc Rahe, Ron Schieffer, Roger Goedken

Others: Tom Brase, SEATS Director, Angie Conard, Brad Neumann, Kelly Schneider, Dawn Alam

Absent:

Members: Maszhir Salih, Pat Heiden, Mark Rummel, Doug Thompson, Steve Oulman

Ex-Officio: Ann Trotter

Others: Brock Grenis, Josh Super

1. Call to order: 1:03
2. Open Discussion:
3. Chairperson's Report:
 - a. Introductions: via phone
4. Director's Report:
 - a. COVID-19 and what has changed: temperature checks being done by drivers before they work, masks are required unless we get a doctor's excuse, we are not taking subscription trips, we still encourage people to avoid using us unless they need to, and we are only allowing 2-3 riders at a time on a vehicle so we can provide social distancing. Drivers are also asking questions before riders get on bus (do you have a fever or cough). Temperature checks are in question because we don't want the drivers getting close to the riders. We are currently providing 40-65 rides per day.
 - b. SEATS is staffed with full time people only until the need arises to call back our outstanding casual drivers. Some of the full time staff have taken time off during the pandemic. Drivers are also working at the board office and at conservation.
 - c. Coralville has extended eligibility for current riders until June 30, 2022. I have not gotten official word from Iowa City yet, but they plan on extending the deadline.
 - d. Due to COVID-19 we plan on posting the Rider Survey online and not handing them out this year, if that is ok with this committee. Ron Schieffer requested that the survey be emailed to agencies so staff can fill them out and return them. We will be using the same survey that was used two years ago.
 - e. Any suggestions for how to best operate with agencies opening up possibly soon and to keep everyone safe?
 - f. Number of trips are down drastically. We did 5,914 trips in March compared to 11,651 in 2019 and we did 968 trips this April compared to 12,115 last year. It was asked if there is government aid and the answer was that Federal assistance is available to transit. There is also federal assistance for PPE. Successful Living and REACH will be opening on July 1 with around 20% capacity.
 - g. Fares coming back in June. Billing agencies would help us keep social distancing for drivers and riders. We would like to avoid exchanging money and punch cards. We would like to bill for a while. Possibly bill twice a month. Iowa City will start charging fares again sometime in June is their plan for now, but Coralville hasn't decided when they will start charging again.
5. Updates or concerns from Advisory Committee members and Ex-officio members: Door to Door service will not be what it usually is to keep social distancing, unless requested. We are asking that the staff bring riders out to the bus. Medical appointments will start picking up.
6. Approval of last meeting's minutes by Jerri.
7. Next meeting: August, 2020 with possible conference call please call (319) 688-5945 at 1 PM

Adjourn 1:30