

## **Asheville Transit Committee Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, 7 April 2015**

### **Attending:**

**Committee Members:** Julie Mayfield, Adam Charnack, Bruce Emory, Calvin Allen, Tom Tomlin, Brooke German, Ed Johnson

**City Staff:** Yuri Koslen, Gregg Godwin, Rose Christian

**Community Members:** Amy Cantrell, James Gambrell, Sabrah n'haRaven

Julie opened the meeting at 3:30.

### **March 3, 2015 Minutes**

Tom moved approval and Calvin seconded; passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment I**

None

### **TC Experiences Riding the Bus**

Tom, Adam, & Julie had no complaints. Bruce rode routes S3 and E1; E1 was running late. Calvin also rode S3, and commented on the lack of shelters along Airport Road. Brooke said N1 was running okay.

### **New Business**

#### **New Committee Member:**

Julie raised the question of whether we should find a replacement for David Wilson now, or wait until the end of the year when there will be another vacancy to fill (Dave Erb). The consensus was having nine members is satisfactory, and to wait until near the end of the year to recruit new members.

#### **Strive Not To Drive:**

Julie announced that this year's Strive Not To Drive will be held the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>. After discussion, it was agreed that there should be one free fare day, along with supplying breakfast snacks at the Transit Station, similar to last year.

### **Old Business**

#### **Policy Document:**

Yuri reviewed the status of the proposed document setting forth responsibilities for passengers, drivers, and ART staff. Julie led a review of the draft text for each of the sections. There was discussion of the item regarding buses running late; it was agreed that the drivers should be responsible for alerting the dispatcher in the event of a potential late arrival at the Transit Station. Over the next two months policies regarding strollers, groceries, and suspensions should be finalized, so that the overall document can be published.

#### **Transit Committee Goals:**

Adam reported continuing discussions regarding potential funding for the increased frequency pilot program. Julie said she and Calvin plan to meet with Brownie Newman regarding possible County funding. Brooke is pursuing the idea of a video with local videographers, and will coordinate with Charlton.

#### **Budget Discussions with City Council:**

No new meetings reported. The City's budget for next year may be seriously affected by proposed new state legislation regarding sales tax distribution.

#### **MMTC Update:**

Bruce described a staff presentation on the traffic calming program, and discussions about City policy regarding closure of sidewalks during building construction projects.

### **Staff Updates**

Rose reviewed the reports concerning safety and accidents. It was agreed that the Committee would like to see quarterly reports describing the events of that quarter (same for Public Staff report).

Yuri described upcoming minor route changes: S3 to extend to new park-ride at Ag Center; W2 to go into new outlet mall.

Yuri presented staff proposals for fee adjustments: eliminating the downtown free ride zone, and setting fees for street closures that affect bus stops. There was Committee and public concern about the elimination of the free fare zone, which benefits low-income riders. Adam made a motion, seconded by Bruce, to approve both proposed changes; it failed 4-3. He then moved, and Ed seconded, to approve just the street closure fees, and it passed unanimously.

Gregg reported that staff is reconsidering proposed ADA changes; added item for discussion at next meeting.

Yuri reported briefly on ridership: up in January, down slightly in February due to bad weather.

#### **Agenda Items for Next TC Meeting – 5 May 2015**

Free fare zone  
Advertising policy  
Transit Committee Goals  
ADA changes

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.