

**RTA CUSTOMER ADVOCACY GROUP
MEETING MINUTES**

Thurs, February 12, 2015

8am - 9:30am

Wright Stop Board Room

4 South Main St., Dayton, OH 45402

ATTENDING: Brenda Alexander, Bruce Barcelo, Melody Burba, Michelle Chinoda, Jean Denney, Frank Ecklar, Nozipo Glenn, Allison Ledford, Tonya Mathis, Nathan Owens, Tracey Handlin-Rohr, Wanda Slone, Sandra Speed, and Keith Steeber

UNABLE TO ATTEND TODAY: Kjirsten Frank, Laura Heitz, Shari Hignite, Anna Horton, Sabrina Prichett, Ted Sampson

HANDOUTS: Meeting agenda, GDRTA CAG Bylaws draft, RTA service suggestions submitted by CAG members, RTA service changes effective 1/25, Rookie Ride guide brochure, Senior EZ ride brochure, minutes from the Dec 11 meeting were not available as Jean had a water leak in her office and the minutes were unreadable

WELCOME

- Bruce welcomed everyone to our October RTA CAG meeting and everyone introduced themselves
- Bruce welcomed our 2 newest members – Brenda Alexander (Public Health) and Michelle Chinoda (SCC)

UPDATES & REPORTS

- New Member Recruitment - Bruce shared that he had reached out to potential members to invite them to become a part of the RTA CAG group to include representatives from Dayton Public Schools, Goodwill, and Sinclair Community College (SCC). Please email Bruce at BBarcelo@phdmc.org to share contact information of other nominations that you have.
- Adopt a Stop – Frank shared that RTA is continuing to reach out to business owners and property owners to consider participating in the Adopt a Stop program. As it takes a community of volunteers to assist with picking up trash and snow removal for the 3000 RTA bus stops. They have met with the Montgomery County Youth Services to see if they would be interested in partnering with RTA on this project. Keith shared that he reached out the Oregon Business Owners organization and to the Watervliet and Belmont Business district – and he will follow up on this. Bruce shared that RTA will put up an Adopt a Stop sign that identifies the host organization. Howard gives the host organization trash bags, gloves and other materials as well.
- Faith Based Partnerships – Tonya shared that she and Nathan sent out letters inviting faith based churches/groups to attend a meeting – however there was low attendance.

They have compiled a list of these groups with names and addresses but need our assistance with identifying a phone number for each group so a follow up call can be made to them. Nathan will email everyone a copy of the list. Melody volunteered to help with this project. Please send the phone numbers you are able to locate via email to Tonya at tmathis50@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone in advance for your assistance with this project!

- Tobacco free bus stops - Bruce shared progress being made throughout the Dayton area and state wide. Governor Kasich is in favor of tax increase on tobacco products and well as making all schools and universities in the state of Ohio tobacco free. Hopefully there is an announcement coming in April that Wright State University (WSU) will become tobacco free. Many parks including Cooper Park by the library and parks in Oakwood are becoming smoke free. Our RTA CAG group voted unanimously on a recommendation that was shared with the RTA BOT that all bus stops be smoke free. Melody shared she hoped someday that this movement would also include fragrance free areas. Wanda shared that it seemed ironic that we are moving towards a smoke free environment as well as towards the legalization of marijuana.
- Transit Advocacy Groups - Bruce shared that our CAG group was making great progress with many of the suggestions we gained from reviewing the 3 articles about other public transit advocacy groups that were shared at the October 9 meeting.
- RTA CAG By Laws – Keith shared that Tonya, Kirsten and himself met to develop the first draft of the RTA CAG Bylaws. Copies were available for all to review/read. Keith shared an overview of the bylaws and led a discussion on topics including - the inclusion of a treasurer and a budget, the need for a quorum for voting or a simple majority, listing a formal relationship with RTA staff, and if RTA CAG representation should be present at RTA board meeting. Input and feedback was provided by all members. The group appreciated the work the bylaws committee made on this initiative. Keith will make adjustments and share the final draft at the April 9 meeting for discussion and vote.
- RTA Staff - Frank shared many updates regarding
 - 1) Appreciation for the service suggestions he received from CAG members
 - 2) Increased service areas(handout) including Cosco
 - 3) Update on the new Next Gen buses (which Bruce, Keith and Nozipo got to ride!)
 - 4) Will begin to introduce RTA staff who are behind the scenes at upcoming CAG meetings
 - 5) RTA was the recipient of an Ohio Council Wellness Award
 - 6) RTA will continue to hold another health fair this year as over 300 attended last year and some great community partnerships were developed
 - 7) Update on the Bike Share program - which was 80% federally funded and 20% from the City of Dayton to purchase bikes and stations. The program will be overseen by Bike MV. Sponsors will be solicited to host stations. An annual membership will be approximately \$60-80 and short trip costs of \$2-3 with a credit card. The new bikes will have GPS. The program will launch sometime this spring.
 - 8) RTA will soon be launching the ITS program which will provide real time data for drivers and riders. Improvements will include improvements of audio on buses, mobile data, Paratransit call ahead and online etc. Stay tuned!

- 9) Update on service to the Dayton Mall. Miami Township has hired a group to study a 2 mile area. Please feel free to provide input and feedback to Kyle Hingleman. Primarily our ongoing concerns have included: current bus stop at the DM stinks, the need for RTA drop offs at the front door of the mall, improvements to sidewalks and to patrons. The LEE group who were instrumental with the title 6 lawsuit against Beavercreek are now focusing on the Dayton Mall.
- 10) For additional information on the Dayton Mall Master Plan, their survey, and open meetings - please see the following link at: <http://www.planthemallarea.com/>
- 11) For additional information on these topics please see the RTA webpage found at the following link: <http://www.i-riderta.org/>

NEW BUSINESS

- Wanda shared information about a fundraiser for the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) being held at the Bob Evans located on Miller Lane on March 14.
- Bruce shared that there are a growing number of children in Montgomery County who go hungry during the summer months. RTA is being approached to consider becoming a summer feeding site to help with addressing this growing concern.
- Nathan shared a copy of a new RTA brochure called Rookie Ride Guide. He brought extra copies today so feel free to take a handful. If you need additional copies to share with consumers, please email him at nowens@greaterdaytonrta.org
- Bruce shared that he received an email from Jean indicating she would like to step down as the RTA CAG Communications Coordinator effective April 2015 but will continue being a member of the group. Is anyone interested in taking on the duties of the Communications Coordinator? Sandra will think about it.

ACTION STEPS

- Please email Bruce at BBarcelo@phdmc.org to share contact information of other nominations that you have for individuals to invite to join RTA CAG
- Keith shared that he reached out the Oregon Business Owners organization and to the Watervliet and Belmont Business district regarding Adopt A Stop – and he will follow up on this
- Nathan will email everyone a copy of Faith Based groups list
- Please send the phone numbers you are able to locate for the faith based groups to Tonya at tmathis50@gmail.com
- Keith will make adjustments to the RTA CAG bylaws share the final draft at the April 9 meeting for discussion and vote
- Please take a few minutes to complete the survey on Dayton Mall Master Plan found at the following link: <http://www.planthemallarea.com/>
- Is anyone interested in taking on the duties of the Communications Coordinator – if so, please email Bruce at BBarcelo@phdmc.org

NEXT MEETING DATE

8-9:30am on Thursday, June 11, 2015

Please share any corrections/changes/updates with the RTA CAG Communications Coordinator