



Disability Advisory Group

Minutes –June 11, 2008
Community Inc.'s offices

In Attendance

Ron Mullins, GM Kings Transit
Brian (Seward) Bruce, citizen member, People First
Sandra Wood, Community Inc.
Vicki Petrie – Manager- Annapolis Valley Work Centre
Tammy Provencal, FlowerCart
Tracey Robinson, Family First Medical
Jennifer Coolen, Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection
John MacInnes, Annapolis Valley ARC
Barbara Aikman, Support Services Group

Regrets,

Rhonda Spears- Annapolis Valley Work Centre
Les Kakonyi- RCMP Community Constable
Joan Levack- Vice Chair, NS League for Equal Opportunities (NSLEO)
Kimberly Monette, Family First Medical
Alison McQueen, citizen member with Becky Corkum
Debbie Decker, Trans County Accessible Transit Society

1. Approval of the agenda

Under Correspondence and Miscellaneous
➤ Inclusive Transportation Summit

**Moved by John and seconded by Tammy that the agenda be approved.
Motion carried**

2. Approval of the minutes

**Moved by Ron and seconded by Jennifer to approve the minutes as circulated,
Motion carried.**

3. Attendant Fare Policy

The KTA board approved our policy and made it more liberal deleting the previous clause of “right of refusal”. The disability advisory group reviewed the attached attendant fare policy and debated the need to ask the reasons for taking transit on the form and whether it was too invasive to be asking. We shouldn’t be singling out the disabled with these questions and possibly perpetuating any stereotypes or labeling. It was agreed to amend the form adding Optional (for information only) adding “Why do you most often use transit”, “When”, and having an “Additional Comments section at the bottom/next page to offer more information

Ron showed the cards that were made up for existing clients with attendants

Moved by Jennifer, seconded by Vicki to approve the Attendant Fare Policy for clients with disabilities as revised by the Kings Transit Board

Motion carried

4. Education and public awareness

Advertising starting in the newspapers and find attached to your package the copy of the ad running in our local papers. Brian questioned the use of the word “Disability” in the ad asking if it was appropriate to be labeling people as opposed to the word “challenge”. The group debated the use of this word in the ad and how it should be used. We have to be clear for whom this policy is for. We have to work on our language and how we portray such policies and words to the public. We should change the word “client” to “attende”. Client implies a professional organization when that’s not intended. For the next meeting it was suggested that we discuss volunteers (having a pool of people) helping with riders that need assistance riding the bus.

Vicki commented on a client of theirs that had an attendant for the first couple of rides and is now comfortable taking the bus on their own. Sandra mentioned a similar experience with a teacher helping a student with challenges get comfortable taking the bus. Sandra suggested for the fall agenda promotion this new policy, giving out sheets of tickets, getting testimonials asking if we could put the policy and forms on our website and our buses.

5. Wheel Chair, accessible bus stops

We had incidents where people with wheelchairs having asked our drivers to go off route to drop them off because they were not able to wheel themselves any distance. And this is not acceptable. We are a transit company first and foremost and don’t have the luxury of altering our route. We have to pick up and drop people off where it’s feasible along our existing route. This would be a great case for volunteers when riders need help getting around. Tracey questioned the insurance aspect of having volunteers on our buses.

6. Security Cameras

The security cameras are a great tool to protect our ridership from inappropriate behaviour and have been used to correct certain situations that have happened on the bus.

It was suggested that Kings Transit show organizations such as the FlowerCart and the Work Activity Centre to their clients so they know what the cameras are about.

7. Correspondence and Miscellaneous

Inclusive Transportation Summit

Sandra spoke to the summit and the Independent Transportation Network (ITN) model and the possibilities here in Nova Scotia are endless. At some point we have to tackle how we deliver inclusive transportation.

Ron informed the group that we will be changing the schedules and transfers points effective July 2nd.

8. Next meeting

Sept 9th @ 9:30 am to 11am

Action Items:

Redo attendant fare forms

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Pool of Volunteers

Promotion of Attendant Fare Policy

Revised Attendant forms

Approved

Chair_____

Secretary_____