



Disability Advisory Group

Minutes –March 4, 2008
Community Inc.'s offices

In Attendance

Ron Mullins, GM Kings Transit
Brian (Seward) Bruce, citizen member, People First
Roger Tatlock, FlowerCart
Kimberly Monette, Family First Medical
Tracey Robinson, Family First Medical
Jennifer Coolen, Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection
John McInnis, Annapolis Valley ARC
Alison McQueen, citizen member with Becky Corkum
Barbara Aikman, Support Services Group
Debbie Decker, TransCounty Accessible Transit Society

Regrets,

Sandra Wood, VDPS
Vicki Petrie – Manager- Annapolis Valley Work Centre
Rhonda Spears- Annapolis Valley Work Centre
Les Kakonyi- RCMP Community Constable
Joan Levack- Vice Chair, NS League for Equal Opportunities (NSLEO)

Welcome, and Introduction

1. Approval of the agenda

Additions to the agenda,
Stranded Passengers,
Surveillance cameras

**Moved by John and seconded by Tracey that the agenda be approved as amended.
Motion carried**

2. Ron welcomed **new members** John McInnis, Brian Bruce, Jennifer Coolen, Roger Tatlock, Kimberly Monette and Tracey Robinson, thanking them for their interest in this advisory group.

3. Approval of the minutes

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

4. The draft of the **attendant fare policy** was circulated. Once approved by this group, it will be recommended to go to the Kings Transit board for their approval. Questions were asked on how the transit will address attendant traveling back alone, and what will be used as an attendant card, or will passes being given. If transfer passes are to be used they would have to be a special transfer, as the existing transfers are currently for only one year. It is Kings Transits goal to make this procedure as easy to implement and control as efficiently as possible.

This policy will cover any person with a disability that requires an attendant.

A copy of the TCATS registration form will be used as a guide for Kings Transit to use in preparation of their own form.

Moved by John, seconded by Kimberly to approve the Attendant Fare Policy for clients with disabilities.

Motion carried

5. Education and public awareness

It is extremely important to inform the public, as more persons with disabilities use the transit service, it may delay service. The members suggested getting the message out within as many free publications/newsletters as possible. Each member was asked to forward Ron any publication information they have so that Kings Transit may follow up on article submissions.

6. Staff Training

The staff training being provided by the Human Rights Commission (HRC) as part of our settlement with HRC is tentatively re-scheduled for April 2 & 9th.

7. Wheel chair accessible stops.

It is very important to have a stop to pull off, that is safe for a person in a wheelchair to get safely on the bus. Driveways in some instances maybe possible but this presents a challenge, as some maybe accessible others may not. Concrete pads within the municipalities would be costly to install, and maintain. Winter time presents a challenge to keeping all stops clean, while bus drivers are being creative in reaching the passengers, this is a safety issue. Roger indicated he would rather see the existing stops being taken care, rather than creating these cement pads that without snow removal would not be fully accessible 4 to 6 months of the year, depending upon the weather.

Jennifer Coolen informed the group that Health Promotion is working with planners to be sure that transportation is accessible, and being proactive is the key.

Ron suggested using the National Transportation Safety week as a way to increase education awareness.

8. Board Retreat

Ron updated the members on the board retreat, and that the board was very supportive of this committee. Ron will bring back to the board, the importance in keeping the stops properly maintained.

9. National Transportation Week

It was debated when this was and the need for Kings Transit to use this forum to promote its accessibility service.

10. Correspondence

Michelle Morgan Coolen has sent a letter to Kings Transit requesting an attendance policy be put in place. She writes that she has been requesting this policy since early 2007. She would like to see a conclusion on this matter sooner rather than later.

Moved by Kim, seconded by Alison to accept the correspondence.

Motion carried

Once the attendance fare policy is in place, education and implementation is key so that labeling and discrimination does not occur.

Stranded Passengers

When breakdowns or delays occur it is extremely important to get the word out to as many waiting passengers as possible.

It was suggested that Kings Transit look to partner with business and local organizations along the bus route to act as an information link if the buses are delayed. Those partners would relay the delay in service message to the waiting passengers. Ron also let everyone know that if at any time there are stranded passengers especially those with disabilities, that the operations manager should be called.

In the future Kings Transit will be piloting GPS cell phones on their buses, enabling riders to see via the internet and website exactly where each bus is located. Other suggestions to help get the delay message to passengers were text messaging or email, as clearly the radio message is not as effective if you are out waiting at a stop with no radio contact.

Surveillance Cameras

Kings Transit is installing Video Surveillance cameras on all its buses around March 10. There will be 4 cameras per bus that will monitor inside and outside the bus. There will have to be signs and information to the media that these will be set in place.

Ron explained that there is a policy for unruly passengers.

Next meetings

Roger Tatlock suggested the full years schedule be put in place. He also suggested alternating morning and daytime meetings so that everyone that wishes to attend may do so at some point in time.

Meeting dates

June 3rd @ 9:30 am

Sept 9th @ 5:00 pm

Meeting adjourned 10:18 am

Action Items:

National Transportation Week- advertising

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Wheel Chair Stops

Staff Training and Public Awareness- designing ads??

Education

National Transportation Safety Week

Security Cameras

GPS

Stranded Passengers- Partnerships with Organizations

Approved

Chair _____

Secretary _____