

**CAPITAL AREA TRANSIT
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

CAT Conference Room
Tuesday, June 7, 2016
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The CAT People with Disabilities Advisory Committee has been organized to facilitate communications between and collaboration with CAT management to improve transit services for persons with disabilities and/or persons with low incomes.

Attendance

Charles Carr	Elizabeth Pabon	Tom Young (AO)	– Dale Verchick (phone)
Karin Cain			
Howard DeHart	Diana Steel	<u>Vernae Patterson</u>	— –Robert Philbin —Jamie
Ray Leone	<u>Guy Beneventano</u>		
Carolyn O'Brien	Seth Ambrose	Pam Auer	<u>Dale Verchick (phone)</u>
Mike Begler	Sherry Marks	Bill Jones	— <u>Lan Do</u> <u>Jamie</u>
<u>Ray-Leonetti (phone)</u>	—————		
Cathy Long	Tom Young (AGM)	<u>Diana Deeley</u>	
Vernae Patterson			

May minutes read and approved.

~~Guy Beneventano, solicitor, briefed the committee about “Right to Know” (RTK). He urged the committee to adopt a resolution he drafted on the subject. Copies of the resolution need to be distributed and read by the committee members before voting. Motion to adopt the resolution was tabled until the next meeting. The tri-fold brochures currently being distributed to riders are difficult for blind and sight disabled riders to scan and read. Bill Jones, general manager, said they can and will be made accessible. Dale Verchick, Disability Rights of PA, offered to provide a sample of how the brochures should be printed. She also requested that a statement be put in the brochures confirming that riders can get the written material in any language upon request. Cathy Long suggested an MP3 file; an audio version. Mr. Jones made note of her suggestion.~~

A web page has been set up by Lan Do, Disability Rights PA, to retain all records created by the advisory committee: planning project, roadmap, minutes, etc. A power point was shown and the web address was shared.

An email will also be distributed announcing the web site address and password. Lan is the only person who can post to the site so all documents to be stored there should be sent to her.

Mike Begler updated everyone on the project plan. He introduced a "60 day forward view". It will show the tasks to be completed within each 60 day period.

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The questionnaire put together by the survey subcommittee was presented via power point. Printouts were also available. Samples of the online survey were also sent out through a mass email prior to this meeting. Recommendations to possibly improve the survey were encouraged. The survey does ask for the riders name and contact info.(voluntary) for any further things they may want to discuss. A distribution subcommittee will be formed to discuss getting help for those who cannot fill out the

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survey, for whatever reason. A few changes were made to the survey and it was approved for distribution. CAT will post the survey website address on their buses and provide it on their website. Contact Seth Ambrose, CILCP, with the name of any organization that will participate in the distribution process.

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Karin Cain announced the new CAT website. A power point followed. There is a People with Disabilities tab where you can find a list this committee's members and minutes from the monthly meetings. Let Karin know if any improvements should be made to the website. She is also in the process of making a separate website for complaints. Riders with Disabilities Survey Records retention Seth Ambrose, CILCP, stressed that the community needs some type of assurance that they can feel free to speak to a CAT official, about any situation, without any type of retaliation or "punishment".

Pam Auer, CILCP, member of the PA Transportation Alliance, offered to relay any questions concerning budgetary issues at a June 15th meeting with PennDOT.

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A recommendation was made to the mayor by Bill Jones, CAT GM, that Matthew Seeley, Esq., PA Statewide Independent Living Council, be appointed as one of the city's representatives. This will make Mr. Seeley eligible to serve on the CAT board.

Tom Young, assistant general manager, spoke about Find my CAT bus for paratransit. He said...The software is provided by Penn-Dot. Presently they are working on an Interactive Voice Response to be implemented after a new phone system is purchased and set up. No talk about a “find my ride” for paratransit.

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Bill Peterson, Center for Community Building, said that eligibility determination, etc. for paratransit make a “find my ride” difficult at this time. Mr. Peterson reminded everyone that MATP has an IVR system in place.

An immediate priorities sub-committee is being formed. Pam Auer and Howard DeHart have been compiling suggestions for the new CAT website as the first issue of this sub-committee. Pam is working on having a draft ready ASAP. Discussion about the website ensued. There was confusion about the “Emergency Ride Home” link; unsure if people with disabilities can use it. ERH is through Commuter Services. Mr. Jones will check into this.

The survey sub-committee will meet on a conference call later this month and hopefully have a survey drafted to present to the committee next month. Mike Begler pointed out that the survey being worked on right now is aimed at the riders/general public. A different survey will be needed for the providers.

Other Notes...

If you participate in ride sharing or use public transportation twice a week, you are eligible to sign up for Unlike other transportation services by CAT, MATP does record all calls. Emergency Ride Home (ERH). ERH does not provide transportation, it provides reimbursement for your alternative transportation. More info. can be found on the Cat website.

All calls to Tom Young are entered as a complaint.

Meeting Adjourn

Carolyn O'Brien, committee member

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