

## MINUTES OF ADA ADVISORY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

PLACE:

Disability In Action, Inc.  
317 N. Willis St.  
Abilene, Texas 79603

TIME: Wednesday, June 28, 2:00pm

- **Update by staff on progress toward strategies on “recovering” capacity**
  - ADA certified riders using fixed route receiving free fare
    - James Oliver explained current benefit for ADA clients is reduced fare and explained that free fixed route rides for ADA clients requires city approval.
    - Mike Vandervoort elaborated on the benefit of free fixed route rides for ADA clients and that current eligibility is NOT affected.
    - ADA client Jessica Lacy asked if cost would affect current ADA riders;
  - RFP for taxi cab to help with overflow
    - Procedure was explained by James Oliver including that final draft is in legal for approval.
    -
  - Timeline for arrival of Type 2 Vans that use non-CDL Drivers
    - James Oliver updated that is still in process but TxDOT has increased the requirements.
    - Drivers of Type 2 vans will be trained using the “SMITH” system as used to train CDL drivers at CityLink.
    - Applicants who do not possess a CDL will undergo 30-day training to obtain one.
    - Type 2 vans are ADA compliant but are smaller than paratransit vans currently in use at CityLink.
    - Previous attempts have been made to recruit school bus drivers.
- **Nomination and Selection of Board Members whose terms have expired**

(Topic was moved to end of meeting)

- **Discuss potential of exploration of a volunteer driver program. (Whitepaper on the topic for review: [http://web1.ctaa.org/webmodules/webarticles/articlefiles/rtap\\_volunteers.pdf](http://web1.ctaa.org/webmodules/webarticles/articlefiles/rtap_volunteers.pdf))**
  - Mary Cooksey suggests forming a committee of board members to explore the possibility of volunteer drivers.  
(Research/Exploration Committee via United Way)
  - Mike Vandervoort suggests the new board committee be formed for input only.
  - Motion was made to create a committee by Mary Cooksey and seconded by Mike Vandervoort
    - Research committee: Debra Turner, Brennan Favor, Mary Cooksey, Mike Vandervoort and JoAnn Fluke
  - James Oliver advised he will check with legal then must be presented to the City of Abilene.
  
- **Discussion about the shortage of drivers and the policies of CityLink.**
  - James Oliver advised CityLink is retaining the sign-on, safety and referral bonuses to encourage new applicants and current drivers.
  - Staffing agencies are also being used to recruit new drivers.
  - CityLink is unable to discuss employment benefits or answer questions regarding prior employees.
  
- **Report/Discussion on City's plan for updating the ADA Paratransit Plan**
  - Rewrite will be initiated by City of Abilene; as an advisory board, notice must be given.
  
- **Distribution of By-laws copies and discussion about contents**
  - Copies available if needed.
  
- **Discussion about the Board's responsibilities to the community**
  - Necessity of monthly meeting was discussed.
  
- **Discussion about a transportation study and its necessity**
  - Remix report
  
- **Discussion of monthly meetings for the ADA Advisory board until this recent crisis has improved.**
  - All agreed to hold monthly meeting
  
- **Public comments**
  - Excessive workloads – Jessica Lacy (Disabled public)
  - Expressed appreciation for CityLink drivers dedication – Patsy Daniel (At-Large member)
  - Board thanks CityLink
  
- **Nomination and Selection of Board Members whose terms have expired**
  - Mary Cooksey to Agency
  - Donna Reiff to Alternate

**Meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.**

Next meeting tentative – possibly August 2, 2017