



Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) Meeting

Marion Senior Services
1101 SW 20th Court, Ocala, FL 34471
December 9, 2021
10:30 AM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Jeffrey Askew
Ivonne Perez
Susan Hanley
Andrea Melvin
Steven Neal

Members Not Present:

Michelle Stone
Charmaine Anderson
Tracey Sapp
Carlos Colon
Iris Pozo
Tracey Alesiani
Carissa Hutchinson
Anissa Pieriboni
Jeff Aboumrad
James Haynes

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, TPO

Shakayla Irby, TPO
Elizabeth Mitchell, TPO
Brandon Palermo, Center for Independent Living
Ken McKely, Marion Transit
Karen Williams, Marion Transit
Herman Schulz, Marion Transit

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chairman Askew called the meeting to order at 10:30am. Secretary Shakayla Irby called the roll and a special quorum was present.

Per the bylaws Mr. Neal made a motion to move forward with a special quorum of five-voting members. Ms. Melvin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairman Askew led the board members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 3. Proof of Publication

Secretary Shakayla Irby stated that the meeting had been published December 2, 2021 online on the TPO website and Facebook and Twitter pages, the City of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites. The meeting was also published to the December 2, 2021 edition of the Star Banner.

Item 4A. Veterans Services presented by Mr. Jeffrey Askew

Vice Chairman Askew, Director of Marion County Veterans Service gave a presentation of the services provided.

Mr. Askew stated that along with being the Director of Marion County Veterans Services he also oversaw the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park and was in charge of the Veterans Exhibit Center.

A pamphlet was provided to the board to review information on all services provided.

Some of the services provided included help for residents to obtain their Veterans Administration (VA) benefits. That included counseling, compensation, pension, health care, education, as well as death & burial benefits.

Veteran Services also assisted veterans who were seeking to replace lost medals awarded during active duty.

Marion County Veterans Services located at 2730 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470 also shared their building with Vets helping Vets and they assisted with meals, rent, counseling for Veterans with PTSD, home loans, and also help low income individuals as well.

Mr. Askew mentioned that for the first time Veterans Services would have three floats in the upcoming Christmas parade that included Veterans and their families.

A booklet with information on the Veterans Park was provided to the board.

Mr. Askew mentioned that you did not have to be deceased to have your name placed in the Veterans Park. He also provided a map that outlined the Memorial Park.

The Veterans Park was open from sunrise to sunset at 2601 East Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470.

Mr. Askew said just down the hill from the Veterans Memorial Park there was a Veterans Exhibit Center that was open Tuesday to Friday and on special occasions (Memorial Day and Veterans Day etc.).

A proper flag etiquette booklet was provided to the board.

Mr. Askew had a Q&A with the board and also provided a chance to receive special prizes.

Question: What state had the weirdest shaped flag?

Answer: Ohio

Question: Which state received their first official flag in the year 2020?

Answer: Mississippi

Mr. Askew talked about the funding that was received for Veterans and also shared the three locations to the Veterans Clinic.

SunTran would be providing bus services to the new Veterans Clinic located on SR 200.

Item 5A. Grievance Procedures

TPO staff regularly reviewed and/or amended the TDLCB Grievance Procedures to assure that all elements of the Grievance Procedures were in alignment with Florida statutes, regulations and codes.

There were no new amendments to the Grievance Procedures at the time.

Ms. Melvin made a motion to approve the Grievance Procedures as presented. Ms. Hanley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5B. By-Laws

TPO staff regularly reviewed and/or amended the TDLCB Bylaws to assure that all elements of the Bylaws are in alignment with Florida statutes, regulations and codes.

There were no new amendments to the By-laws.

Ms. Hanley made a motion to approve the By-laws as presented. Ms. Melvin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5C. Election of new Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Askew nominated Andrea Melvin to be Vice Chair.

Mr. Neal made a motion to appoint Ms. Andrea Melvin as Vice Chair. Ms. Hanley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5D. Election of new Grievance sub-committee members

Five volunteers were needed for the Grievance sub-committee.

Mr. Jeffery Askew and Steven Neal volunteered to be on the Grievance sub-committee members.

The election of new Grievance sub-committee members was tabled to the next TDLCB meeting with Mr. Askew and Mr. Neal as volunteers.

Item 5E. Election of sub-committee members to assist with CTC evaluation

Ms. Liz Mitchell with the Ocala Marion TPO explained that the sub-committee members would assist with the CTC evaluation that was conducted every year.

The evaluation looked at training, finances, and all of the interworking of the system.

Sub-committee members would assist with phone calls to Marion Transit riders for surveying and also ride-a-longs on the buses to see the drivers in action also.

Volunteers

- Andrea Melvin
- Brandon Palermo
- Susan Hanley
- Jeffrey Askew (*if needed*)

Item 5F. Meeting Schedule for 2022

Mr. Askew reviewed the 2022 meeting schedule with the board and asked that board members provide an alternate if a member could not attend a future meeting.

Item 6. Consent Agenda

Mr. Neal made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Melvin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 7. Comments by TDLCB Members

Ms. Susan Hanley made a comment that from the Department of Elder Affairs she had hoped that things would return to some sort of normalcy. The Department of Elder Affairs determined Medicaid eligibility and still had not been going into nursing homes to assess patients. Due to changes during the pandemic there was a sense of disconnection from the nursing home facilities. Patients were being assessed via phone after reviewing information for each patient. There was a struggle with open visitation at nursing homes and also home visits were still difficult.

Mr. Askew said that it had been a challenging year and hoped that next year would be more open for everyone.

Ms. Andrea Melvin said that the Centers for Independent Living still had their front door locked and only seeing appointments as needed most services were still provided by phone or by Zoom.

Mr. Brandon Palermo with the Centers for Independent Living said he had hopes that things would continue to get better and hoped for reopening in the coming year.

Ms. Ivonne Perez with the Agency of Health Care Administration had been doing business as usual.

Mr. Steven Neal made comments that the SunTran had started a new route structure on October 18th and still had face mask restrictions in place extended until March 18th, 2022 but expected to continue with different variants. SunTran would be putting new technology inside of the buses for Covid and inside the air ventilation system would be a ionization system to kill Covid and germs on the bus. SunTran was also going to the Centers, the new VA hospital, and extended routes for Grey Hound users. SunTran would also be looking into electric buses and more bus shelters in the coming year.

Mr. Askew asked if face masks were provided for the SunTran bus drivers and riders.

Mr. Neal responded that there were masks provided on the bus if needed.

Mr. Askew asked if SunTran could provide more route maps to the Veterans Services facility.

Mr. Neal said he would provide more route maps to the Veterans Services facility.

Item 8. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Rob Balmes, TPO Director notified the TDLCB of the January 12, 2022 kick-off meeting to the Commitment to Zero: Safety Action Plan and provided a flyer. The plan would continue throughout the late summer with the result of a final action plan for the community.

Item 9. Comments by CTC

Mr. Herman Schulz gave updates that Jenifer Martinez was the acting Director for transportation and if the board had any questions on day to day operations they could reach out to himself, Karen Williams, or Ken McKely.

Marion Transit had recently implemented a new phone upgrade and computer upgrades were in process.

Mr. Schulz also provided grant updates and new bus updates.

Route match and the optimizer would put clients in route orders so that drivers did not have to plan out the routes. Additional training was coming for the new route match in the first of the New Year.

Ken McKely, Transit Manager had recently completed Transit Supervisor certification course provided through the Transit Safety Institute.

All drivers for Marion Transit were wearing masks as well as riders.

Item 10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Item 11. Adjournment

Vice Chair Askew adjourned the meeting at 11:14am.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant