

WeGo Access Policy Advisory Committee Special Meeting

August 18, 2021

1:00pm-3:00pm

Music City Central

400 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

Nashville, TN 37218

WeGo Access Policy Advisory Committee Special Meeting Minutes

Call to Order at 1:00pm by Natasha Wilkins, APAC Chair

Welcome

Natasha Wilkins, APAC Chair

Roll Call

Linda Brown, APAC Secretary

Members Present In Person:

Natasha Wilkins

Pam Hollingsworth

Patricia Valladares

Linda Brown

Roger Womack

John Forbes

Thomas Hinkson

Sheila Hanson

Present Over Zoom:

Arthur Humphrey

April Meredith

Carolyn Naifeh

Jordan Collins

Brenda Boaz-Pond

Tonja Dandy

James Brown

Introduction of APAC Committee Nominees:

Each Nominee for membership to the committee that was present was given a few minutes to introduce themselves and share why they wish to join the committee.

Arthur Humphrey shared he was a teacher at Tennessee School for the Blind and also utilized the WeGo Access Ride services. He also shared he is visually impaired. In reference to the services provided by WeGo AccessRide, this is something that's extremely important to him . He stated It's a wonderful service And He is thankful to have the opportunity to have a voice on the committee.

Brenda Boaz-Pond works for Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She stated she has friends who are deaf and hard of hearing who share with her about their experience with the services provided by Access Ride. She said she is interested in serving on the APAC committee to provide perspective on the experiences of those individuals .

Carolyn Naifeh stated she is the Executive Director of Our Place Nashville, and she will provide representation from the intellectual and developmental disabilities community. Jordan Collins will serve in her place when she is unable to attend. She stated she and Jordan work to help adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to find jobs and provide them with affordable housing. More than half of their residents utilize AccessRide services, and she shared they were going to start having some older adults who will also use AccessRide or Access On Demand. Carolyn stated they were very privileged to be able to help in this capacity as committee members by providing a voice for a community that doesn't necessarily get to speak for itself sometimes.

Pam Hollingsworth shared that she is the Director of Employment Services for Progress Inc. and is very interested in joining the APAC committee. Progress is a provider agency and she and her team provide employment services to people with intellectual disabilities, And she stated they do this through DIDD, Vocational Rehabilitation, as well as the Employment and Community First Services. She stated they were connecting lots of people with transportation to get to and from work annually, and this is why she is interested in being a part of this committee and will appreciate the opportunity.

Dr. Tonja Dandy stated she is the Principal at Tennessee School for the Blind and has been invited, to come to the meeting today. She indicated they serve a population of pre k through 12th grade students across the entire State of Tennessee including all 95 counties. Dr. Dandy said basically what they do at TSB is to prepare students for life after graduation by working with many agencies. She shared it's a pleasure to be invited to join such an esteemed group of people.

Tom brought forth the recommendation of The Nominations committee to vote Arthur, Carolyn, Brenda, and Pam to be added to the APAC committee. The vote was unanimous and no one on the committee opposed the vote for new members. Dr. Tonja Dandy will be voted on in September's meeting.

APAC meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.