

Mass Transit and Highway Advisory Commission
Minutes of the February 25 meeting

Present: Karen Wagner, Jim MacPherson, Herb Asplund, Terry Hart, Bob Dickinson, Thomas Scheinblum, Kathy Hale, Josh Johnson.

Herb Asplund led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The January minutes were approved with one correction. Amy Parmenter's name was misspelled.

The Agenda as approved with one correction. The report on the trolley will be given by Terry Hart.

Old business

1. 175th anniversary. Karen Wagner reported that she is scheduled to meet with the anniversary committee on March 18 and invited members to join her.
2. Grants.
 - a. BUILD grant: Thomas Scheinblum reported that the deadline for this year's BUILD grant application is May 18 at 5 p.m. The Commission reviewed the steps needed to finish the application.
 - i. Karen Wagner agreed to write the project narrative.
 - ii. Thomas will do the description of the location.
 - iii. In considering funding, Terry Hart reported on his conversation with Jeff Meyer at Post Road Stages, getting general information about running the service. Post Road Stages doesn't do leasing of its buses. But Jeff said, in general, the specific plan will determine how many drivers and vehicles are needed. Herb Asplund talked about his conversation with Bob Fleet, who oversees the WeHa bus for Premier Limousine. There is only one bus, which only runs on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 4 pm to midnight. Commission members said we need more specifics for our project's operation before submitting any application.
 - iv. Karen suggested that we try focusing on a wider bus service and not be tied to the trolley route. She reminded members of

the Magic Carpet bus in Enfield. Josh summarized his research on the Enfield bus and said he would update that.

- v. Karen asked all members to draw up their preferred, limited, routes centering on the business area but going beyond to the places they thought needed service, sticking to approximately a 30-minute loop. Thomas passed out several types of town maps with areas highlighted for specific population clusters. Everyone will use those as the guidelines for their maps. They also thought we needed to do a new survey. Kathy Hale mentioned Michelle Lipe's information on new businesses in town. Information on new employees is still needed.
- vi. A special meeting was scheduled for March 3 to look at everyone's maps, crunch them together, and settle on one everyone can support
- vii. The rest of the BUILD grant discussion was tabled.

New Business

1. Change in meeting date. Karen said the April meeting had to be changed because it is the day of the presidential preference election. She will send around the times she is available because she is travelling a lot.
2. Karen mentioned a new task force in town that may promote the use of more public transit to stem climate change. She also passed around a survey asking for comments on transportation and climate change in case anyone wanted to fill it out.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.

Next meeting is March 3.