

MUSKEGON COUNTY

M I C H I G A N

MATS ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7 June 2022

MEETING MINUTES

ZOOM MTG: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm
2. In attendance:

Rosemarie Facilla	Lisa Sullivan
Bonnie Gonzalez	Danna Pittman
Mike Milligan (MATS)	
3. Mike Milligan (ADA Coordinator) welcomed everyone to the meeting.
4. Reviewed the 8 February minutes.
5. Old business:
 - Reminded everyone that Go2 has contracted with Freedom Transit of Muskegon for coverage in the event a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle isn't in service between 5:00 pm and 9:00 PM Monday through Friday. Arrangements for transportation will be made through Go2 Customer Service.
 - Mike attended a Zoom meeting hosted by Disability Network, discussing Hiring Individuals with Disabilities, and highlighting Jeff VanDyke. It was a very enlightening presentation, and everyone is encouraged to look to Disability Network for not only advocacy, but for educational and public service announcements and presentations.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Robert Scolnik
Chair, District 4

Susie Hughes
Vice Chair, District 3

Rillastine R. Wilkins
District 1

Marcia Hovey-Wright
District 2

Zach Lahring
District 5

Charles Nash
District 6

Malinda Pego
District 7

Doug Brown
District 8

Kim Cyr
District 9



6. New Business

- Mike provided ridership numbers for May. In the past week, MATS recorded the highest number of riders on a single day, since the beginning of the pandemic. Also, Go2 has set both weekly and daily high numbers, and is steadily averaging over 3 riders per hour.
- West Michigan Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART) is hosting a free in person and virtual event to learn more about accessibility and assistive technology in the workplace on June 14th at 1:00 pm. Contact Lisa Sullivan at Disability Network for more information.
- Michigan Rehab Services is conducting an informational session on how to complete and submit Work Opportunity Tax Credit applications, on June 22, from 10 to noon. Contact Lisa Sullivan at Disability Network for more information.
- Health West will be hosting the Health, Wellness & Recovery Community picnic for the 11th year on Aug 18th, at Hackley Park: 11 am – 2 pm.
- Disability Network is hosting the Party in the Park on Aug 26th.
- Taste of Muskegon will be going on this weekend, and as summer is upon us, there are lots of opportunities for people to attend a variety of events throughout the community. Inclusion means for everyone, so enjoy what is available.
- May has seen some very warm days, and many of the buses seemed to have problems with air conditioning. It was explained that all of the buses have been checked out and the A/C systems turned on after that streak of warm weather.
- The group had a roundtable discussion on Customer Service, including the perceptions people make and the need for more humanity and sensitivity when dealing with everyone. It's easy to see someone who uses a wheelchair, walker, or has a white cane because they are visible; but many people endure invisible disabilities such as Autism, Depression, PTSD, and other issues, which Bus Drivers should be more aware of and therefore more polite and helpful.

7. The next meeting is scheduled for 11 October and will be a Zoom meeting. If you would like more information or receive an invite, please contact the ADA Coordinator by email at: milliganmi@co.muskegon.mi.us
8. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.