

CITY OF BARRE
ADA Committee
MEETING Minutes
(Thursday 12-17-20 10:00 a.m.)
via ZOOM

PRESENT: Marichel Vaught, Ericka Reil, Bernadette Rose, Dena Estivil (phone). Guest - Devin Mason from GMT, Janell Perry, Hillary Cole joined meeting 10:30

ABSENT: Jeff Bergeron

1. Call to order: 10:00 a.m.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda:

A. COVID update re: people with disabilities in the community – (and MH) What can the city do to support them? Safe City, Health officer, etc. (Bern)

B. Ask Jeff if we have the new sidewalk plow. (Bern)

3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: NOT DONE -

4. Old Business:

A. Grievances - None

B. Bern: COVID update re: people with disabilities in the community – (and MH) What can the city do to support them? Safe City, Health officer, etc.

Marichel said the Diversity and Equity Committee is reaching out to folks in the City to find out what is happening. Chief Brent is in charge of COVID info. D&E committee is reaching out to him. Marichel was tasked with reaching out for COVID info on the City website (Mgr, and IT) to find info about COVID services and support services in the city and how folks can find them on website, as well as by calling the City offices. D&E have a COVID City working group.

Hillary asked about D&E meeting – Meets at 6:15pm on Monday next.

Ericka says some of the non-profits are info hubs for what is happening during COVID because folks without Internet access are accessing through n-ps.

Marichel feels non-profits should be listed as resources on website.

Hillary noted challenges she sees are obviously isolation, major hoarding issues, and increase in substance abuse.

Janell said Another Way is reaching out to other agencies, to churches, supporting people with applications for benefits.

Marichel said D&E committee is looking at not only website, but what is city being able to provide callers needing resources.

Bern suggested that City install a Search Engine that works on their Website.

C. Bern: Sidewalk Snowblower - Ericka said City has not purchase the sidewalk plow. Bern stated that it was included in capital funds voted for by citizens last March. She said that she has contacted DPW, Councilor Reil, and was assured this would happen. It was not purchased with other city equipment in late June, and she was told it would be purchased in August. DPW Bill Ahearn told us in the past, that he allocated funds for upgrading winter plowing of streets as the bobcats used also break up the sidewalks making them even more hazardous. The purchase has yet to be made.

5. New Business:

A. Update on Social Media – Marichel spoke with Jody regarding more text in FaceBook posts, and providing descriptive texts. Marichel has been doing some of this, and Jody understands. Marichel has been supporting Jody by turning PDFs into links or transcribing. There is more descriptive text. Ericka reports The City is updating the City Website and Councilor Waszazak and Mayor Herring are working on that. Marichel contacted City Mgr McKenzie and Rick Taft (IT) regarding COVID from Diversity & Equity.

B. Devin Mason of GMT –

a. Define relationship between City and GMT – Ericka & Devin; GMT provides transportation (on demand, route, commuters) and receives contributions from communities

b. bus stop across from NBM – Hillary (not present).

Ericka reviewed the hazards at that stop, and that the plans to move it had not taken place. SCREEN SHARE: Photo of a dirty snowbank with a “Bus Stop” sign in the middle of it.

Devin shared GMT is evaluating bus stops for safety.

Dena spoke to the area not being safe all year long. Now people are being dropped basically in the street at the bus stop all year long. If people have scooters or chairs, they ride the bus around the city to access the bus and the request for a better solution has already been 3 years. Dena asked for accountability from GMT as to progress of this site.

Janell reported that she slipped and fell under the bus last year. And today the destination sign on the front was covered with snow and she got on the wrong bus while trying to navigate the snow bank near Dente. She spoke to the difficulty reading the destination signs on the buses and asks if any have the side destination sign as well, which would help folks with visual challenges.

Dena also let Devin know that the bus doesn't always stop in inclement weather if they are waiting under cover at NBM to give people time to get to the sign. Devin said he will bring to planning and maintenance at GMT. Dena requests that Ericka follow up with GMT's responses to ADA concerns.

c. Dena commented upon the new steps on the bus being narrower and steeper than the old buses and more difficult to navigate, especially with visual impairment.

d. Ericka acknowledged shoveling not being done by DOC, Devin said GMT is looking for 3rd party to do.

e. Devin said if folks have any further comments, he can be reached by email at dmason@ridegmt.com and thanked the committee for the information it offered.

Next Steps: Ericka will follow up on sidewalk snowblower, and GMT responses to ADA concerns.

Set Next Meeting Date: January 21, 2021, ZOOM

Round Table: Marichel invites everyone to Diversity and Equity Committee , Monday Dec. 21 at 6:15 pm. Zoom Link / phone is in the agenda: https://www.barrecity.org/client_media/files/agendas/FY21/DE%20Agenda%2012-21-2020%20revised.pdf

Adjourn: 10:56 a.m

Respectfully submitted,
Bern Rose (aka Bernadette)