

ELDERLY AND DISABLED LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 2025 @ MTA ADMINISTRATION BUILDING | 1401 Dort Hwy, Flint, MI 48503 @ 10:00 am

Here is the Zoom information for the MTA LAC Meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81901140627?pwd=UUiQbvFWGgSslryzoLccXgT795iXmz.1>

Meeting ID: 819 0114 0627

Passcode: 370834

FACILITATOR: Pamela Reid

CALL TO ORDER: 10:04 AM

ATTENDANCE: Rene Sherwood, Pamela Reid, Besh, Sheila Johnson, Ed Burger, Clara Blakely, Steven Low, Ben Blazen, Allison Gute, Brooke Gow, and Michael Loper

GUESTS: Sheila Fulmore (President NFB) and Damontae Scott (VP NFB) - from the National Federation for the Blind

APPROVAL of APRIL MINUTES: Ed Burger made a correction to the meeting minutes, he wanted to ensure riders can take as many grocery bags as they can carry in one trip. This is the normal policy.

Motion to approve made by Allison Gute, Steven Low seconded. None opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MEETING MINUTES:

- Old Business:
- *ADA certification:* No grievances at this time. However, this item will stay on the agenda.
- *Membership vacancies:* LAC has 3 applications for member seats. We have two openings and will have to vote on new membership.
- *The Safe Streets Grand & Safety Action Plan:* Besh stated there is an online survey, that takes about 15 minutes to fill out, and he felt the survey was important for the public to fill out. It is the best way to make voices heard and create a sound Safety Action Plan.
- *Meeting location sign-up sheet:* LAC is still looking for a host for the months of September, November, and December. Clara Blakely also discussed cancelling the August meeting and

meeting in July instead. It was discussed LAC not meet in July or August. The consensus was we could look at the calendar for next year. The discussion was tabled. Brooke Gow brought up the concern for how to manage any ADA Certification Grievances in the interim should we not meet in July or August. The LAC agreed, and it was determined that we would review our Bylaws. A Bylaw committee was formed, which included Brooke Gow, Pamela Reid, Rene Sherwood, and Clara Blakely.

- *Membership Applications:* Damontae Scott, James Hukan, and Sheila Fulmore have submitted applications for board spots.
 - Damontae Scott and Sheila Fulmore were both present for the vote.
 - Clara Blakely spoke up, stating that when she was voted onto the board, she was told there was a need for her to have an alternate. Brooke Gow, stated this sounded familiar, and it was determined by the board that an alternate is a requirement.
 - Besh stated that The Disability Network has offered to make the application more accessible to all who want to apply. There is likely a small fee involved, \$150. Ed Burger stated that there was no issue, Besh stated they would move forward.
 - Clara Blakely proposed both Sheila Fulmore and Damontae Scott share a seat as representatives of the Visually Impaired community and a representative of the National Federation for the Blind. Sheila Fulmore was voted to fill the vacant seat and Damontae is her alternate.
 - The vote for Jim Hukan was tabled for August

New Business

- Status Report and Service Report from MTA's Ed Burger
 - 26,915 paratransit riders
 - 16,838 classified ADA
 - 4,017 no ambulatory clients utilizing the lift
 - The out of county rides and service have had an adjustment. There was not enough ridership to justify trips from Genesee County to Brighton, sometimes there were only 2 riders. However, there are still other rides in and out of county available which are more heavily used.
 - Ed Burger stated MTA has partnered with STARS in Saginaw for provide free transportation to riders for job-related ride needs.
 - New Train Center is opening and being dedicated to an employee.
 - A new break room in the transportation center is being opened, named after a driver whom was tragically killed in an accident. She was hit by an impaired driver.
 - This afternoon, Ed will be doing a podcast to honor her and her legacy.

MTA Public Comment

- No public comment

Member Comment

- Pamela Reid stated that despite the awful weather on Senior Power Day, they still had a great turnout, and over 900 seniors came to the event.
- Besh stated that The Disability Network is hosting their annual ADA Fair. It is on July 25th at Powers Catholic High School Parking Lot.
- The National Federation for the Blind is hosting a community picnic on July 26th at Cook Park. It's on Averill St. It is from 11-3. They also an annual Gala at the Flint Institute of Arts on June 28th. Brooke Gow stated if she could acquire a PDF version of the flyer, she would email it out.
- Steven Low passed around a flyer for an event in August, but this is a very important and unique program. This is a collaboration between Jewish and Arab musicians. The event is taking place on Friday, August 22 at 4 PM at the Flint Institute of Music. There is also a concert on Saturday, August 23 at 7 PM at MacArthur Recital Hall. Children are welcome.

Reminder, there is no meeting in July.

We will resume August 13 at Family Service Agency of Mid Michigan.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.