



OPEN MEETING

**REPORT OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION
MOBILITY AND VEHICLES COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, June 5, 2019 – 1:30 p.m.
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ray Gros-Chair, Don Tibbets, Jim Matson, Jon Pearlstone, John Frankel, Elsie Addington, Andre Tornø, John Dalis

ADVISORS: None present

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vashti Williams (Non-voting Advisor)

OTHERS PRESENT: Cash Achrekar, Diane Phelps, Juanita Skillman, Bert Moldow

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Laugenour, Francisco Perez, Tiffany Rivas, Elizabeth Cortez, Siobhan Foster, Tim Moy, Ellyce Rothrock

1. Call to Order

Chair Gros called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

2. Acknowledgment of Media

No press was present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Item #10 was removed from the agenda at staff's request. The revised agenda was approved by consensus.

4. Approval of Meeting Report for April 3, 2019

The Regular Meeting Report of April 3, 2019 was approved by consensus.

5. Chair's Remarks

Chair Gros notified the audience that the M & V committee is working towards the benefit of the Community as well as staff. He asked the audience to be open to the preliminary recommendations made by consultants. Also reiterated the Committee is working to benefit the Community as a whole.

6. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)

Shelva Lenzkes (401): Spoke about how the bus system has declined in excellence within her experience of six years. Stated the fixed routes are unclear, and asked the committee to have a better transportation system especially during the weekend.

Pauline Shusko (1053): Spoke about her dependency of the transportation system to get to her medical appointments. Emphasized to the Committee how important it is for her to have an accessible transportation system.

Marilynn Handelman (3451-C): Thanked the Committee for all they are doing. Also, explained to the Committee some of her challenges with calling the Transportation phone line and attaining transportation to Clubhouse 5.

Suellen Zima (823-D): Addressed to the consultants that she has used Plan-A-Ride as little as possible because of the difficulty in scheduling an appointment. She addressed the challenges in calling Transportation and also with the Plan-A-Ride scheduling software.

Gary Serbeniuk (9-A): Spoke about riding bicycles in the Village. Asked the Committee to explore options on making the Village a safer community to ride bicycles.

Shirley Niederkorn (184-A): Spoke about the Bus Information meetings and asked the Committee to have the meetings reinstated. Also mentioned due to language barriers, it's challenging to educate some residents about the Bus rules. Stated she is thrilled about the proposed recommendations. Thanked the board for their service.

Harry Rockey (753-T): Spoke about Plan-A-Ride and its inefficiency. Also mentioned, bus system should be charged for the use of the gates.

Cash Achrekar (201-E): Asked the audience to identify problems while not being negative towards Committee Members or Staff.

Jeff Noynaert (781-D): Spoke about the current bus transportation system. He stated the current system is not designed for residents because it takes too long to get to a destination. He also mentioned that he is not satisfied with the Plan-A-Ride system.

7. Response to Member Comments

Director Tornig addressed Ms. Niederkorn's comment regarding language barriers. He suggested getting involved with Chinese and Korean communities to help in addressing language barriers.

Director Addington addressed Marilyn's comment regarding Plan-A-Ride challenges.

Director Dalis addressed the audience and stated the importance to maintain an adequate bus system. He suggested going back to the previous transportation system.

Chair Gros generally addressed members by stating the challenge with Plan-A-Ride is that more people use it instead of route system. He also mentioned that the consultants spoke with residents and bus drivers in efforts to create the best Transportation system. He asked members of the audience to give the consultants a chance.

Mr. Laugenour addressed members by stating the issues with the Transportation phone system are not acceptable. He also affirmed he is working with Chuck Holland to better the Transportation computer system. He explained to members the Transportation department is working with consultants to improve the Transportation system. He stated the goal is to make the system best for the Community as a whole. He is excited about the preliminary recommendations and informed members these recommendations are draft in nature. He informed members the focus for today's recommendations are primarily on the fixed route system. He also affirmed that he is confident the preliminary recommendations will make the system better for everybody.

Consent:

None

Reports:

8. Transportation & Maintenance Manager's Reports

Mr. Laugenour thanked everyone. Ridership has been relatively steady between Plan-A-Ride and Fixed Route for the first quarter of the year. Fixed Route Ridership may increase due to assigning (RFID) chips, used to track ridership, to residents who have not had one. He stated that we received the new wheelchair accessible transit minivan for Plan-A-Ride under our 2019 Capital budget. Also stated that we have also ordered three large buses under our 2019 Capital budget; first bus is to be delivered in 2-3 weeks. Regarding the Bus Grant status, stated we now only have three buses left that are under contract. Lastly, Mr. Laugenour asked M&V committee for feedback regarding selling fuel to Age Well, Senior Transportation agency. Mr. Laugenour's long term goal is collaborate with other transportation agencies in order to gain better transportation services for the Community.

9. Transit Study Update – Fehr & Peers

Jeremiah LaRose provided a brief overview of the Study's progress, and presented a DRAFT concept for changes to the Fixed-route bus system. The draft concept includes a 9-

bus system incorporating 7 neighborhood routes and 1 commercial route (which would utilize 2 buses). Each Residential route would loop between the designated neighborhood and Clubhouse 1 every 30 minutes. The Commercial routes would begin at Clubhouse 1 and loop around the various commercial and medical offices every 30 minutes. By using such a strategy, a trip from a resident's home to any destination should take no more than 40 minutes. Additionally there would not be a need to transfer buses within a neighborhood area. Mr. LaRose mentioned that this is a draft concept, and if approved he would work with staff to finalize the routes to ensure the proper timing

After discussion between the consultant and Committee Members, and listening to preliminary resident comments, there was general consensus from the Committee to move forward with the Draft plan for the Fixed Routes changes. Staff will be working to develop the cost detail for this routing change, and make recommendations for its implementation.

10. ADA Policy – Francisco Perez, Transportation Supervisor (postponed)

Items for Future Agendas:

11. Bus Policy Updates – Use by Non-Profit Agencies

Concluding Business:

12. Committee Member Comments

Trong addressed member's comments to contact consultants directly, suggesting residents should contact VMS before contacting consultant.

13. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday, August 7, 2019

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.



Ray Gros, Chair
GRF Mobility & Vehicles Committee