DOVER HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2013

CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, DOVER

Present: Vice Chair, Dawn Allen-Pyne, Justina H. Brewington, Ellen O. Wasfi and Faye D. White
Absent: Chairman, Roy Sudler, Dr. Linda Hackett and Dr. Phylis Edamatsu

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Vice Chair, Dawn Allen-Pyne called the Dover Human Relations Commission Meeting to order on this day, Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at 7:03 p.m.

2. **Moment of Silence:** was observed.

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

    a. **Regular Meeting of May 22, 2013**
    b. **Regular Meeting of June 26, 2013**

    Vice Chair Dawn Allen-Pyne stated that the Commissioners present can review the minutes of May 22, 2013 and

    June 26, 2013 but could not vote on accepting them because we did not have a quorum present to vote.

    Commissioner White questioned having Bishop Gordon's financials in our May 22, 2013 meeting minutes.

    Vice Chair Dawn Allen-Pyne motioned that we contact Bishop Gordon to see if he wants the budget that he submitted to us included in our meetings minutes as well as inquiring with the City Clerk's Office if a presenter's submission can be included in our meeting minutes even if it was not included in the presentation.

    Commissioner Wasfi second.

    Motion carried.

    Commissioner Wasfi stated that we may want to add the words *submitted by* when including presentation packets into our meeting minutes.

    Commissioner Wasfi reported that she noticed a correction that needed to be made to the recently approved minutes of June 27, 2012. Under section #8 Unfinished Business of June 27, 2012 minutes the word Asian should read Cessation.

    Commissioner Wasfi reported that she contacted the National League of Cities and found out that having a Human Relations Commission is not a required to be a member.

4. **Comments/Presentations from Members of the Community:**

    Ms. Deborah Angelini of 200 W. Lockerman Street, Dover, Delaware approached the podium to state that she submitted a formal complaint to Dart (Delaware Transit Corporation) regarding their public transportation services which includes the bus schedule itself, a request for extended hours and the hazardous bus stop areas which includes the Wolf Creek stop and Route #105 where she and other passengers are being subjected to hazardous

DRAFT

conditions when exiting the bus. The following submission was presented to Dart and handed over to the Commission for our records:

Date July 22, 2013

Dart
Delaware Transit Corporation
P.O. Box 1670
Wilmington, DE 19899-1670

200 W. Loockerman St. STE: 503
Dover, DE 19901

Attention to Management:

I, Deborah L. Angelini, am following through on a complaint made on May 20, 2013. I would like to revisit the subject matter of the report included: the bus rout (105) The aforemention document informed dart of the Wolf Creek location near the complex of medical buildings. The area was described inadequate for a bus stop because there was no sidewalk, no cement ground, nor clear space for public passengers with or without wheelchair. The Dart rules included: handicap accessory pick up and drop off making all areas safe to accommodate all passengers. This is not the case in this specific area.

In addition, the whole route of (105) has the same conditions near Mores Lake and across from the M & T Bank. These areas are in hazardous conditions. When it rains the increase of all types bugs which, can be more than just a mere bit. There have been documentation of infections and disease as a result of such insect bites.

Next, what I discovered a month after writing this first letter is that the people that came to cut the grass and the tress back did an improper job. The employees left huge tree trunks on both sides of the the passage way in front of where the bus stops let out passengers. A person had to walk over and around these tree trunks that were left there on the ground.

In addition, when it rains there is flooding on this route which, people are stepping into puddles of water and the muddy ground. This is not the only area of such conditions.

The message conveyed is now the tress are cut back, we cleaned the area, so now what is the complaint. There was no path cleared to walk on either side of the ground to the left or to the right. We complied with the complaint. This is what people get paid for. These people are suppose to be skilled and trained. They increased more danger to the public which, showed an I do not care attitude.

Herein, this document serves to report for a second time and raise in question when is Dart administration going to go out and post back the bus schedules at the bus stops. The boxes at the bus stops are empty. The fact no one has acted to correct this problem shows more indifference of

1

complying to own rules and regulations of public services. They are very helpful.

Finally, there is the conflict of bus stops being on one side of the street and not the other side when wanting to return from the location got off. For example, on route eight there is a stop at the little grocery store. When you leave there to take the bus back into town there is no close bus stop. The bus stop on the opposite side of the street is down the street before the traffic light and before the drug store.

A person will have to miss the bus coming back because having to walk to that bus stop. Than the person has to wait another half hour which, ends up being an hour wait when including the walk. This is not the only area with this systems problem.

In addition, there is a problem with the bus scheduled time periods for (103), (104), (105), (107) and (117). Whereas, the (103 and 105) have one driver for one bus that changes from (105) route too (103) route interval during the time period of every other hour. This leaves no bus on those routes in between the bus runs. This is not a reliable source of transportation and interferes with passengers ability to maintain schedule medical and work appointments using the public transportation.

There should be a (105) bus with a driver as well as for the (103) bus route. The (104) with the connection of the (117) bus should implement another link to reduced the time period of the passengers a boarding and departing i.e. One hour verses two-hour.

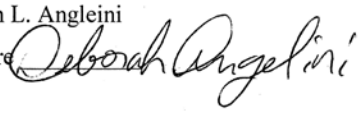
Furthermore, there has been an on going request for extended hours of public transportation including weekend services in Dover. This has been on going for over twenty-one years. In a twenty-one year time period Dart has only made adjustment in the pass three-years to that part of the publics request.

Dart has deliberately and intentionally ignored the publics interest. More so, redirecting the condition as a none public interest or need. The attitude is that forty-years prior we the old folks did not even have that and you think this is bad. The truth is that we are not forty years ago. We as the people should have progressed from that time period. We the people should not be repressed to such time periods.

In conclusion my hope is that these aformention concerns expressed should be give priority to make as solutions.

Thank You,

Deborah L. Angleini

Signature 

Reported Bus Schedule Awareness included:

- Bus stops posted glass boxes are absent schedules posted are Bus routes (103) (105-106) (108-109).
- public Interest is disregarded with the indifference of none posting.
- Petition for extended bus time included:
- Later hours
- Half-hour runs verses hourly and two-hour runs per bus on route. To make changes too bus (107) back to runs of half hour with separate bus to extend other areas added or in connection. The (104-117) and or other alike.
- One bus for one route excluding one bus too cover two different routes shorting the time period for one run and making a longer time period for the same bus run to cover another bus run.
- To extend bus routes on weekends.
- To increase time on week-days and weekends i.e. Saturday.

In conclusion Dart has showed the public interest at large has been deliberately and intentional ignored. The public interest has been redirected as a non-public interest or need. The attitude in example is in the messages forty-years ago there wasn't even bus services. The truth is this is not forty-years ago or 400 hundred years ago as some would like to maintain life from process. For the people the hope is to move forward. The publics hope is that the aforemention concerns expressed should be made as priority for resolve.

Thank You,
Deborah Angelini
Signature Deborah L. Angelini

Reported Bus Schedule Awareness included:

- Bus stops posted glass boxes are absent schedules posted are Bus routes (103) (105-106) (108-109).
- public Interest is disregarded with the indifference of none posting.
- Petition for extended bus time included:
- Later hours
- Half-hour runs verses hourly and two-hour runs per bus on route. To make changes too bus (107) back to runs of half hour with separate bus to extend other areas added or in connection. The (104-117) and or other alike.
- One bus for one route excluding one bus too cover two different routes shorting the time period for one run and making a longer time period for the same bus run to cover another bus run.
- To extend bus routes on weekends.
- To increase time on week-days and weekends i.e. Saturday.

In conclusion Dart has showed the public interest at large has been deliberately and intentional ignored. The public interest has been redirected as a non-public interest or need. The attitude in example is in the messages forty-years ago there wasn't even bus services. The truth is this is not forty-years ago or 400 hundred years ago as some would like to maintain life from process. For the people the hope is to move forward. The publics hope is that the aforemention concerns expressed should be made as priority for resolve.

Thank You,
Deborah Angelini
Signature Deborah L. Angelini

Date July 24, 2013

RE: Dart
Delaware Transit Corporation
P.O. Box 1670
Wilmington, DE 19899-1670

Dart Transportation for topics identified for improvement included:

Facts:

- Location as Bus Routes i.e. (105)

Evidence:

- Conditions reported i.e. Wolf Creek is without side-walk and wheelchair accessibility.

Problems:

- Hazards of ground being muddy with standing water when it rains.

Resolve:

- landscaping adding sidewalk and shuttle.

Unresolved:

- Hazards of tree trunks with extended branches left after cutting over-hang of tree on both sides of passengers walking space.
- An increase for injury in area of bus stop.

Communication included:

- An attitude toward the public with an absent written or verbal message "I do not care about safety or dangerous conditions".

Reported Bus scheduled Awareness included:

Resolve included:

- An increase of bus services time period to do one bus route verses decreased time period and bus routes per bus run.
- An increase of bus services extending weekly hours and weekend services.

Un-resolve included:

- Bus stops are without posted schedules in boxes.
- A shortage of bus per bus route that is interchanging bus schedule using one bus for another bus route and interrupting time periods and bus route per bus run. Samples included: (105) (107) (103) (104) (117)

Thank You,

Deborah Angelini
Signature Deborah Angelini

Vice Chair Dawn Allen-Pyne asked Ms. Angelini what she would like the Commission to do.

Ms. Angelini would like for the Commission to bring the bus route problems and request for extended bus hours to Dart Administration attention.

Commissioner White asked Ms. Angelini if she contacted anyone else besides Dart before coming to the Commission. Commissioner White stated that her area had a similar problem and they contacted her State Senator and DelDOT and the problem was handled.

Commissioner Wasfi suggested that a copy of the letter Ms. Angelini sent to Dart should also be sent to her State Representative, Council Person and Senator. Commissioner Wasfi suggested that if Ms. Angelini gets other names of people who feel as she does added to her letter or petition sheet it will make her appeal more effective.

Mr. Greg Bunkley of Woodmill Development, Dover Delaware approached the podium and made the following comment that it was good seeing Commissioner Wasfi and Commissioner Brewington and hearing the presentation made at the Legislative and Finance Committee Meeting. He also expressed that the DHRC needs to continue having their monthly meetings and that some type of town hall meeting hosted by the church or Greek organization needs to take place to let the community know what the Commission does and how it works. Mr. Bunkly closed by congratulating the Commission on their fine work.

Commissioner Wasfi reported that she spoke to Councilman Hutchison and invited him out to one of our meetings to see what the Commission does on a monthly basis. This meeting should be a time when the Council can ask the Commissioners questions and the Commissioners can ask Council questions. She suggested an official letter of invitation should be sent.

Councilman Dixon presence in the audience was acknowledged.

5. Chair's Report:

Chairman Sudler not present to report.

Vice Chair Allen-Pyne stated that she spoke briefly with Chairman Sudler and the minutes from our September 2012 meeting has been retrieved from her phone. She also stated that Chairman Sudler informed her of a meeting that has been scheduled due to Mr. Wilson's presentation to the Commission regarding the Supply and Diversity Program. The Commission was also informed of the passing of Commissioner Hackett's brother. Vice Chair Allen-Pyne will be sending out a card of condolence from the Commission.

6. Committee Report:

a. <u>School Programs</u>

Commissioner Wasfi – informed the Commission that the Study Circle idea on Race Relations had positive feedback from the high schools but there was difficulty setting one up. She stated that she made arrangements with the Dover Public Library to use one of their rooms for a Study Circle for the Commission in September for five consecutive Saturdays from 10am-12pm.

DRAFT

b. **Community Programs:**
Vice Chair Dawn Allen-Pyne – reported that she met with Bishop Hossie and was told that we can use Bible Way Church, 56 S. Kirkwood Street, Dover, Delaware for our September 2013 DHRC Community Meeting. The church's basement meeting room holds approximately 200 people.

c. **Assessment:**
Commissioner Edamatsu – not present to report at this time.

d. **Intake Forms:**
Commissioner Brewington reported that she has two intake forms that she will review with the Chairman Sudler.

7. **Unfinished Business:**

   a. **Formation of Grant Ad-Hoc Committee**
   b. **Formation of Resolution Ad-Hoc Committee**

Vice Chair Dawn Allen-Pyne postponed reviewing this item until out next meeting.

8. **New Business:**
   a. **Monitor and Review of Community and Student Reports on Alleged/Potential Hate Crime Activity in the City of Dover and Surrounding Areas**

Vice Chair Dawn Allen-Pyne postponed reviewing this item until next month.

9. **Scheduling of the Next Regular Meeting**: August 28, 2013 @ 7pm at Dover City Hall

10. **Announcements:** Dr. Hackett's brother's home going service is tomorrow at Pippen's.

11. **Adjournment :**

Vice Chair Dawn Allen-Pyne adjourned the meeting at 8:56pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Belinda Talton

DRAFT