

City of Pittsburgh / Allegheny County

Task Force on Disabilities

Monday, July 18, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Task Force Members in Attendance

John Tague, Milton Henderson, Aurelia Carter, James C. Noschese, Richard McGann, Karen Warman, Sarah Goldstein, Joe Wasserman

Task Force Members Absent

Paul O'Hanlon, Jeff Parker, Janet Evans, Gabe McMoreland,

Also In Attendance

Dawn Smidga, Richard Meritzer, Emily Galfond, Michael Hansom, Joy Dore, April Delacruz, Kim Moorewood, Kim Mackey, Gabrielle Bucci, Joyce Gore

Welcome and Introduction

The program started around 1:00 pm and began with the introduction of the Task Force members and individuals in the audience.

Review and Approval of Treasurer's Report and Minutes

Mr. Tague starts off the Approval of Treasurer's report and minutes and said that he is going to approve the minutes from May, June and July. Mr. Noschese pointed out the errors on the minutes from the previous months saying that they misspelled his last name wrong. Mr. Meritzer said that he is going to make corrections on them. Ms. Goldstein pointed out another errors saying that she wasn't at the May meeting. Ms. Warman pointed out an error saying that she don't remember being at the meeting from June but Mr. Meritzer said that she was at the meeting. Mr. Tague and the task force approved all the meeting minutes. Mr. Tague starts off the financial report by saying that their budget started off in July for the 2016 – 2017. He mentioned that they are getting about \$9,000 that was procreated for the task force for this year. Mr. Tague said that it shows every month what the estimated cost would be and the only cost was for July but he will post the ones for August bills later on when it comes. Mr. Tague mentions the cost of 11 meetings which costs around \$650 for them to conduct the meetings and which cards around \$1650. He also mentioned the cost for the interpreters which is cost \$5,500 and gives the total of \$1,878 left for the year. Mr. Tague and the other members of the task force approves the financial report. Ms. Carter asked if there were project would there be a list that would describe any project being thought of. Mr. Tague said there are four committees one on police, transportation, airport and development and said they have money towards the projects. He also said that they won't have enough

money to fund all four of those projects. Ms. Carter said they have one retreat and wonders if this is something that they will invest in to work on. Mr. Tague said that is the question to ask the chairman.

Partnership with the Complete Streets Project

Mr. Meritzer starts off the Partnership with the Complete Streets Project by saying that Mr. Parker sent him an email with his concerns and suggestions about it. He said that during the Complete Streets discussion with the Oakland for All there was a concern about the disability community name was being used in vain. He mentioned that they had more contact with the disability community than actually there were. Mr. Meritzer also mentioned that the Complete Streets project was saying that they were going to be partners with the disability community but no expected partnership relationship. He also pointed out that Mr. Parker said that they just can't they want to be partners that just need to say how. Ms. Dore said that Paul O'Hanlon had her go to the meeting since he was not able to attend. She that they were supposed to make them accessible but the interpreters didn't show up. Ms. Dore said to ask them to accommodate those who have deaf and hard of hearing which includes the hill district six months ago and to now. Mr. Meritzer said he apologizes for that and said that if there is a need for an interpreter they will arrange for one. He said to Ms. Dore do not assume that someone else would take care of that and if he is the right person. Mr. Meritzer said that if he can't provide to get an interpreter because of his contract he will let them now who can. He said that generally that an event that is sponsored, hosted or organized can provide an interpreter. He said he have been providing interpreters for the uptown eco district even though they are not city meetings and whenever he hears about a meeting he makes those arrangements. Ms. Dore said that she is specifically talking about the ones that came from Mr. Meritzer's emails that has Mr. O'Hanlon's requests. Mr. Meritzer answered saying just because he emails it doesn't mean that he knows that he is making arrangements. Ms. Dore said that she emailed requests for interpreters specifically to Mr. Meritzer for years. Mr. Tague said that he thinks that problem is that what she is saying that ball will get dropped and needs to reduce the amount of balls dropped. He mentioned that, Mr. Meritzer explained it when an organization is having a meeting and it is not a city meeting. He said that organization need to provide interpreters and would need to contact them directly. Mr. Tague said that a lot of times there will there are some places that won't provide interpreters but if there is a large crowd then they will provide interpreters. Ms. Goldstein asked if there were any deaf people that showed up in these meetings and Ms. Dore answered saying that she attended the meetings. Mr. Tague said that they are going to move on and finish with this report. Mr. Noschese said that one issue that comes up if any meeting is on the calendar then we need to put down on it and call an interpreter. Mr. Noschese said if Mr. Meritzer doesn't know about it then nobody wouldn't provide for an interpreter. He mentioned that if Mr. Meritzer doesn't know about there would need to put a place to call for an interpreter if there are needed. Ms. Carter said that we are supposed to be going to meetings as a representatives of the task force but not able to make it and thinks they should obligations to know who to contact in order for interpreter services and accommodations. She said that it should be totally on that person and that they are asking and requesting them to sit as representative for them. Mr. Tague agrees with Ms. Carter's opinion. Mr. Meritzer said that he in the past talked with groups on providing interpreters for meetings and if anyone is going to meeting and that if they don't know if it is a city he will

provide help. Ms. Goldstein said that she provided the names of the representatives and it would be nice if the deaf people showed up and great to have the information on the schedule. She mentioned that it would help them know the schedule and be able to provide an interpreter for them because sometimes they don't have an idea if there are coming or not. Ms. Carter made a comment on the information from the Facebook page that she found was very helpful. She continues to say that if Mr. Meritzer could put some information in terms of social media and request for accommodations based on a city meeting or community meeting. She also said it would be helpful if that information is shared with people so they can know about it. Ms. Warman said that some of the meetings don't accommodate the disability in general and if they don't accommodate how are they going to understand what is going on. Mr. Tague said that there are all in agree here on the way we should proceed it. He mentioned that if they need help and it is not like a city meeting and that Mr. Meritzer is a great resource for that and has no objection being contacted as well. He said that he got the information from Mr. Parker last night and said that they made a presentation about the Complete Streets project two months ago. He mentioned that Mr. Tague had been brief about it and understand that he got this and didn't send it out because he just got it last night and didn't want to send it out last minute thinking some people would get it and some people would not. He asked if they had any comments to make after the meeting. Mr. Tague asked where the comments go about the complete streets policy and Mr. Meritzer answered saying that the comments can go to Ms. Gandhi. Mr. Meritzer said that he and Ms. Gandhi are working together on this project. Mr. Tague had a question about the Oakland for All meeting and said that there was a document sent out and there were changes that were made. Mr. Meritzer said that was the legislation for the framework and there were many changes in that. Mr. Tague asked Mr. Meritzer can he provide what the changes were and not every one of them but the major ones because there was complaint from the disability community that they were engaged in but not mentioned in it. Mr. Meritzer said that they mentioned the disability community far more often in returns to how the plan is going to work. He said that they highlighted disability grants, they included the disability population as a population and they talked about modes of travel which included assistive technology so the mode of travel along with assistive technology, so the mode of travel along with bicycles. He said that was a major change prior to that it was walking and biking now it is walking, biking and using assistive technology. He said that people are not supposed to use motorized conveyances in bike lanes. Mr. Meritzer said that the city's position that is fine with them. He said that the police have said that they are not going to stop somebody from using it on a trail or bike lane that was using assistive technology device. Ms. Goldstein said that she has a question to Mr. Tague asking that how is that possible to make an improvement all over counties outside of your city and said that here is no sidewalks and wheelchairs. She also asked how it is possible to make improvements all over counties outside of the city which includes Monroeville and different places. She said that it is important because there are people with wheelchairs that are stuck. Mr. Tague said that, there are state laws that impacts that also and each individual municipality such as Monroeville will be determined by them. He mentioned that so far Monroeville doesn't have a complete streets policy but it is more difficult for them. Mr. Tague said that there are other cities like Duquesne and McKeesport that have more sidewalks then them. He said that something that the Task Force can take a look at and that with primarily is concerned with the city of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Tague that he will keep in mind and will look at things later. He also said that this could be a great model for what we do in other cities and municipalities. Ms. Carter mentioned Ms. Ester is not here and there is a new ADA coordinator for the county. She also said that the information will be taken back and something that Dawn will look at. Mr. Tague asked will the changes will affect Mr. Parker's letter. Mr. Meritzer said that Jeff's letter came after the fact it won't affect it at all. He said that what Mr. Parker is talking about is not the legislation, overall and a bunch of things they are having problems with, they are dealing with that with the city. He said that this goes once the legislation is passed how they can engage with them. Mr. Meritzer said that it is not as relevant to the actual complete streets policy because they are engaging people in the disability community and said there is going to be a committee that is setup to feedback on it. Mr. Meritzer mentioned that here are different sections and the questions how does the task force relate to either or both. He said that this is much more of a post legislation and what comes next because Mr. Parker said that his biggest fear is once the legislation is passed, the city says they don't have to deal with the disability community anymore. Mr. Tague said that there's implementation of the Complete Street policy and there is a committee. He asked if the committee has been formed and Mr. Meritzer said no. Mr. Tague said that there has to be representation on that committee and everyone in the Task Force agrees with it. Mr. Tague asked is there any reason why you can't delay further discussion until the September meeting. Mr. Meritzer answered saying that this is not happening in the next two weeks, so there is plenty of time to consider it some more. Mr. Tague said he would charge is for everyone to review the information so that they are engaged with it. He mentioned that he must commend Oakland for doing this and they put a lot of pressure on the city.

Symposium Update

Mr. Tague starts off on the Symposium update saying that there will not be an update because there are three of the member involved. He asked Mr. Meritzer was at the meeting that Mr. O'Hanlon had and he answered yes. Mr. Tague said that the meeting with Ms. Stephani with the alliance from SPC attending meeting and said that he didn't get much from her. Mr. Meritzer said that very little happened because there were a lot of people there involved in a number of activities and projects, meeting for the first time our primary speaker and most of the discussion was the speaker getting to know who they were and knowing who he was. He mentioned about the discussion on how the symposium to eventually look but there were no discussions made on it. Mr. Meritzer said that they don't have a date or a place or whether if it's going to be a full day or half day. Mr. Tague asked if there was any notes taken at the meeting and Mr. Meritzer said that he didn't take notes. Mr. Tague also asked if anyone knew about the meeting and everyone in the task force said that they didn't know about it. Mr. Meritzer mentioned that FISA was the one that were taking notes at the meeting and is going to ask if there any notes. Mr. Tague finishes the discussion and hopes there will be more information in September.

Update on Special Events and Police

Mr. Meritzer starts off the review of the updates on special events and police saying that it was a complaint from Ms. Habdavny from two meetings ago. He said that when there is special events to use the terminology everyone goes crazy and Ms. Habdavny was asked to leave a bus not

knowing where she was because there was an event downtown and no one gave her any help. Mr. Meritzer checked and turned out that it wasn't that the bus driver decided not to go any further, it was that the bus were re-routed downtown because of the closure. He said that when there is a closure, it does not affect the streets that are closed. He mentioned that sometimes a bus has to be re-routed several blocks away and that seems to be something that they have to consider. Mr. Meritzer said that he asked about the next meeting and with great reluctance, he is thinking because this has become an issue. He mentioned that he may have to re-start serving on the special events committee and at this point there is nobody from the department of special events committee and that is where the decisions have been made. Mr. Meritzer asked if this can be mentioned in the next meeting of the police committee. He said that while it is a major time commitment from me with very little input because we have a good checklist form the applications so people will know what they have to do. Mr. Meritzer said that if the group would like to sit on the special events committee to report on any bus re-routings. He said that if he can get the information out then he can do that. Mr. Tague asked if that is on the checklist, Mr. Meritzer said it is not on the checklist because it is an accommodation because the buses are already accommodate. He said that the checklist is what they have to do to accommodate and make sure that there is no step entrance and there is communication. Mr. Meritzer said that he will send out the checklist again to everyone one. Mr. Tague asked if this is something that would fit into a checklist. Mr. Meritzer answered saying that no because each event is different. He said that unless someone wants the checklist to say that the driver announces at the beginning of routing that the bus is being re-routed. Ms. Warman said that some of the do that they have to re-route and that they do it when they get close to town. She mentioned that they don't say it during the time when they get on the bus. She said that most people are not aware that there is activity and some are aware of it. Mr. Tague said that it would be important at the beginning of the route and then here is a deal: that every subsequent stop, the driver has to make that announcement, which is not a big deal. He said that they could tell people that are getting on the buses and the bus has been re-routed. He said he thinks that is something that can be added to the checklist. Mr. Meritzer said he is going to send it out and will work on it. Mr. Noschese mentioned that one of his friends wanted to go to the Penguin's championship celebration parade that had interpreters. He said that his friend could not see the interpreters because they were far away and it was impossible for them to get close to the front. Mr. Noschese said, the task force should have some type of special pass for individuals that are deaf or hard of hearing so they can get close to the front and see the interpreter. He said that he does not know if there is a type of pass they can go so the police would allow them to go, get closer to the front rather than being at the back and not seeing the interpreter and not being aware of what is going on. Ms. Dore said that she had a familiar issue with interpreters and special events when she volunteered for the library and went to the bicentennial parade. She said that they were supposed to have interpreters but didn't have any available. She mentioned that she had a doctor's notes that she is deaf and was a participants of one of groups for the parade. Ms. Dore said that port authority buses and the construction such as the 7th building. She mentioned that the port authority doesn't have a blog on their website to look for these announcements. Ms. Dore said that the drivers are confused because they don't know about the announcements. She said the events in downtown were unannounced and the express buses are re-routed and they sit in traffic. Ms. Dore said that

it does get really confusing, it is getting a lot worse and not getting any better. Mr. Tague said because we have construction going on and part of the problem is that port authority has no control of what the city is building and what they are going to tear down. Mr. Tague said that the comment that Mr. Meritzer had about joining the special event committee and asked what the committee think about it and given the fact that it will take more of Mr. Meritzer's time. He asked if it's important enough for Mr. Meritzer to re-join. Ms. Carter said if Mr. Meritzer had enough interns would they be able to sit in those types of meetings. Mr. Meritzer said that unfortunately not, specifically because a lot of information that is presented at the special events committee is not public information. Ms. Carter ask if they are assisting Mr. Mertizer then who is going to tell. Mr. Mertizer answered saying that in the past he tried to get interns to go and got rebukes saying that if you want city employees here and that they would get into a lot of trouble if the information is out early. Mr. Tague asked if Mr. Meritzer should attempt to attend these meetings. Ms. Carter said yes if they schedule permits and everybody agreed to it. Mr. McGann said that two months ago Ms. Maynick shared an experience that she couldn't get an interpreters and she couldn't see for the Penguins Parade. He mentioned that she talked about a couple of deaf people in wheelchairs, they had a lot communication problems from the event and note that in the minutes about it. Mr. Tague asked do we need some area where folks who have disabilities whether they are blind or have a have physical disabilities. He said that they know that they have a lot of events such as political events they need to have a section set off for those with mobility issues which at this case for seniors also. Mr. Meritzer mentioned that he got information from the Penguins Parade and needs to understand that it was something that they had to set up in a moment's notice and it was very complicated for them. He said that he tried to get captioning but the stage was small for it. Mr. Meritzer said that they could only get captioning only if they set up a separate section in front for people who are deaf but they forgot to tell the police about it. He said that when the people who have hearing problem came the police didn't know that it was set up specifically for them until 10 minutes before the parade began and when they heard about it they tried to clear out enough space so they get can the people who are deaf in there. He mentioned that people got there early and was told there is no place for them to go and they didn't even check back. Mr. Meritzer said that this is a case where there was shoddy communication because it was set up hurriedly and he was trying to deal with the interpreter firm and the penguin administration who didn't want to change what they were planning for what he wanted. He said that this speaks to the fact that our city's sports teams are not prepared as they can be for these types of events. Mr. Meritzer stated that he worked on it literally until the last minute trying to put it together. Mr. Tague asked if this is the city's responsibility and Mr. Meritzer said that it was the penguin's responsibility because it was their parade and that was part of the problem. Mr. Tague asked if they paid for anything and Mr. Meritzer said that he paid for it all and other agencies helped. Mr. Meritzer said that the first request was to get interpreters and captioning and they said now. He said that the stage was very small, they can have interpreting and not captioning. Mr. Tague asked if this was under the police committee and Mr. Meritzer said yes it does. Mr. Tague stated that it is not the police's fault and if they didn't know they did not know about it. Mr. Noschese said that he feels like it is common sense when they have a parade in the city, they always have some area that is permission use only. He said that then you have a voucher or ticket for people with wheelchairs, those who are deaf/hard of

hearing and someone will sign it. He said that then they have to apply for permits for parade and asks if people get in without permission or without a permit. Mr. Tague said that you need to have a permit and Mr. Meritzer said that it was all set up quickly, they didn't go through a permit process. Mr. Tague said that there were some people that didn't know that the Penguins were going to win the championship and that they should have known that they will win. Mr. Meritzer said that when the penguins won he got a lot of calls from the deaf community saying that there is going to be a parade. He said that the Penguins didn't know when they will be back in town after winning the championship. Mr. Tague said that it seemed to have a lot problems when it was last minute, communication issues which happens a lot when it is a last minute thing. He said that they have to continue to work on that and will improve with the communication. Mr. Tague stated that the communication is not just with the police but for the Port Authority or any with an effect of what will happen in the downtown area of Pittsburgh. Mr. Meritzer said that he will send out an email for the world championship teams on advisory if there is any celebrations and they have to provide captioning and interpreting. He said that they will have to contact the office so they know it is happening. Mr. Noschese asked who is making the decision, the announcement for the parade, was it the mayor and who was making the decision for it to take place. Mr. Meritzer said that his understanding is that it was negotiated between the team management, the members coming to the city and the community event committee in the mayor's office because it can't have a parade without the team in town. He said that the management wanted to put their stamp on for the team. He stated that no one was solely in charge and was coordinating all of the element. Ms. Dore said that it happens over and over again on these types of events with no interpreters. Mr. Meritzer said that he didn't know about the interpreters needed in those events because no one told him. She said she talked to the library volunteer manager for the city of Pittsburgh and that it would be a good policy for all parades to provide interpreters. Mr. Tague said that a huge event will have a need that is a best solution for this. He said that small events there are going to be obviously a cost savings things and will make sure that they are not having interpreters if they are not needed for the events. Mr. Meritzer said he spoke to the organizers about the parade and the information they gave him was that there was nothing being doing about the speeches during the parade. He said that afterwards the village they were having things and was able to get interpreters for it. He said that if there was a need for interpreters for the parade, they said that they won't be a discussion at the parade and that people are going to march down for it. Mr. Tague said Mr. Meritzer got some wrong information and not only there was a communication issues and it is getting accurate information in a timely matter. Mr. Tague said to remember Mr. Meritzer's number and he announces it.

New City Bike Lane Parking Policy

Mr. Meritzer starts off the New City Bike Lane Parking Policy saying that it came from the Oakland for All where there was a real issue which was mainly from Oakland about the bike lanes. He said that he discuss the issue with the law department and Mr. O'Hanlon negotiated on behalf of the task force and everyone including Oakland for All loves the new policy. He said that what the new policy says if someone is transporting someone that has a disability they are allowed to park in a bike lane and providing they always are in a view of the vehicle. He said that they take person to the door but can't go inside. Mr. Tague said that he is saying that the

ACCESS driver can't come in and Mr. Meritzer says that ACCESS is different and has a carte blanche to have permission on letting people off wherever they need to go. Mr. Tague the access policy is supposed to be in view, have their vehicle in view and that don't always work that way. He mentioned that is what their policy is supposed to be. Mr. Meritzer said and that is what they want to do is to make sure someone is transporting a person with a disability can get them to where they are going. He said that city will do that anymore, he stresses anymore to put in these protected bike lanes. Mr. Meritzer said that they will still do that in parks and will do it anywhere that has big buildings but won't do where there are entrances because ACCESS needs to have door to door services. Mr. Tague said it seems like they can commend themselves and some of us have done a lot of work on this and Oakland for All seems to be part of this which is good. He asked if there are any questions on the bike policy and that they are happy with it and that there is not something inherently bad on it. Mr. Meritzer said that he worked very hard on it, him and Mr. O'Hanlon and the law department and Oakland for All worked on something they really loved. He mentioned that law department love it is something. Ms. Warman asked if Penn Avenue and Downtown considered to be bike lanes and Mr. Meritzer said that they are not going to undo anything that is already there. She also asked if the bike lanes had pillars in it and Mr. Meritzer said yes.

Filling the Vacancy on the Task Force

Mr. Tague said that Kate was a county employment. He said that he want to find out in other works and normally wasn't sure what the process they are going to follow on this and meaning that it is in the past. Mr. Tague said that they basically searched for members and at one time, he and Kate did interviews with potential members of the Task Force. He said that it has been a while since they did that and wonders what the process is. Mr. Tague said that it involves the county and Ms. Ester carries the ball and there is a quick process with the county. He asked what is their process as a task force and wonders if there are any and if the county executive would know about it. He said that there is one county appointment. Mr. Wasserman asked how many openings are the task force is going to talk about. Mr. Tague said that there is one if someone is retiring then would have two. Mr. Henderson asked if there were any applicants and Mr. Tague said they don't have any applicants now. Mr. Meritzer said that one of things about the Task Force is very focused on is keeping across the disability. He said that when the task force has vacancy they will decide which community they want to get it from. He mentioned that they have not had someone from the low hearing community to be appointed for a while. Mr. Meritzer stated that they don't have a reservoir for members on the task force from the low hearing people which is represented. He said that Ms. Theresa in the past had interested in it but didn't attend a meeting for several months. Mr. Tague asked how can the task force proceed and do they need to have further discussions on it when there is a chair available. Mr. Noschese agrees with Mr. Tague and saying that the right word is hard of hearing other than using low hearing. He said that here is no such thing as low hearing and usually uses the word hard of hearing and wants to clarify that. Mr. Tague said that they want to maintain that they are cross disability and that Kate was a representative of the hard of hearing community. He said that the task force community needs to reach out to the community. He asked on how can they suggest on reaching out to it and that they can start the process of it. Mrs. Goldstein said that she

recommends Ms. Dore and that she would be a great person for the hard of hearing community to work together as a partner for it. Ms. Dore said that she is city resident because she lives in the city and not a county resident. Mr. Tague corrected her saying that, she is still a county resident and a city resident. Ms. Dore asked does it mean outside the city limits of Allegheny County or anywhere of Allegheny County area. Mr. Tague said no and that if someone still lives in the county it is not bad either. He said that they don't want to all be city residents living here and need to have frank about it. Ms. Goldstein said that she isn't a city resident because she lives and Bellevue. Mr. Noschese said that he live in Forest Hills. Mr. Tague said that is going to give that information to Mr. Meritzer. Mr. Tague said that Ms. Dore has expressed interest in the task force and asked if they need to send out a notice. Ms. Aurelia said that to make sure that the process is transparent before sending the notice in. Mr. Tague said that they need to send out a notice and asked if it is going to be a broad one to the disability community. He stated that the disability community would get people applying and if someone that is wheelchair bound applies they are not going to be considered. Mr. Meritzer said that he specified in the past to maintain the disability access to the task force and they are looking for someone from a particular community. He mentioned that they might have someone that is both hard of hearing and uses a wheelchair. Mr. Tague said that is a possibility and what they are going to do. He said that Mr. Meritzer is going to send out a notice with some parameters and asked what the task force is looking for and they are going to be transparent as soon as possible. Mr. Tague asked if this is something the task force needs to do and wonders if they need to ask the county executive anything about it if he has anybody in mind that might approached them. Mr. Tague said that there is no special thing here and that they will just start to default the process. He said that when the task force gets a fourth candidate there will be 50 or 60 that will apply for the position. He mentioned that in the pas they interviewed folks, thinks they will have to follow the process that will select the candidates and will interview the ones that are remaining. Mr. Tague said that he is not sure what the number of people out to be but will try to get about 3 or 4 candidates to be interviewed for the position. He mentioned that Mr. O'Hanlon is going to set up an appointment committee that will help with the process. He said that he and Mr. O'Hanlon served in the past and it is not a bad idea to get other people unless they are interested in serving. Ms. Warman asked about people who have mental illness or have a combination of it and hard of hearing. Mr. Tague said that it has been taken into consideration and there are a lot of people that have disabilities and those who have hard of hearing, wheelchairs, those who have multiples issues and that they are considered. Mr. Tague said that will have a process and will be notified by Mr. O'Hanlon. He mentioned that Mr. O'Hanlon will put in objections and will give it to the committee of folk and for anyone that has an interest in the committee to email him.

Report of TIRES Meeting

Ms. Dore starts off her report on the TIRES meeting she attended on the third of August. She discuss the meeting was a transportation policy meeting that Mr. Tague and Mr. Meritzer briefly attended. She said that the two had other engagements but weren't there the whole time. She said that Mr. Meritzer on what he was talking about as follow up. She said that someone heard her talk about it from June and that they were concerned about the questionnaires in the room, the waiting time for ACCESS to pick people up from the hospital. Ms. Dore mentioned that there

were many requests for improved transportation accommodations for people who use ACCESS. She said that there were working on things that include better communication between the agencies, general services and they use software called ECONELE which is used for scheduling. Ms. Dore said that when people use ACCESS they would go to Allegheny to Washington would be different from agency to agency. She mentioned that people would have issues on getting to appointments for example with medical appointments and other necessary things. Ms. Dore said that, County Alliance which has better communication in general across different transportation agency which is administered on overseas. Ms. Dore said that next ATWIC meeting will be on the second of November. She said that TIRES is going to have a quarterly meeting, another transportation advocacy group are going to meet next and they have a Facebook page to keep up on upcoming meetings/events. She mentioned that there is an upcoming meeting that is with the airport coordinator transportation that is going to be located in downtown at the SPC office. She said that the information will be at atwic.org and will be emailing the information out to everyone. Ms. Dore said that, there will be an airport transportation committee meeting which is coming up on the 26th of August from 7:30 am to 10:30 am. She mentioned that there is an upcoming TIRES meeting and that the location will be announced later on. Ms. Dore said that the Port Authority is going to be doing quarterly adjustments that is coming up and not sure what the date will be and will email the information to Mr. Meritzer. Mr. Tague corrected her and saying that the event will be September 25th when the adjustment takes places. Ms. Dore said that the date is September 25th is when the Port Authority city advisory and city buses will change their schedules for transit. She said that the 26th of August is when they are doing an airport transportation meeting. She said she knows they have talked about airport transportation and accessibility. Mr. McGann said that he want to help the chair of the transportation with those issues. Mr. Meritzer said that in the past sessions, the ATWIC and TIRES meetings have been co-terminus and asks is Ms. Dore is going to talk about it on the next meeting. Ms. Dore said that they are doing a next one and thanks for making it accessible for interpreters because it will help with the deaf and hard of hearing community. She mentioned that it is going to be held in tandem for the upcoming meeting and can review it. She said that they are looking for people to attend the meeting. Ms. Dore said there are going to be a lot of changes on every issues from the unplanned express way because they haven't worked on sidewalks in the Monroeville and Swissvale area because they planned on kicking out property to work on that. Mr. Noschese said if they mentioned Uber at the meeting. Ms. Dore said that they briefly talked about it but wasn't discussed at a good length. She said that Mr. Meritzer informed her about it. Ms. Gore said that Uber and Lyft needs to accessible and Ms. Dore agrees and said that in the San Diego area and other large markets located in California and New York City they hired deaf drivers. She said that she agree and that they talk about accessibly at the ATWIC meetings in terms for texting people for access. Mr. Meritzer said that the TIRES meeting they are opening to bring speakers in to discuss on specific subjects. He said that TIRES is changing each meeting as to what they are tackling and if they want people to come to talk about a particular subject let Ms. Dore or him know and will get the information out to them. Ms. Dore said that they are looking for speakers to participate and would encourage people to be a part of the process and will rotated from the area to various part of the country to make it accessible. She said that it will be accessible in different parts of the communities. Ms. Dore said that she encourages people to be

part of the process and can be looked up at the website or their Facebook page. Mr. Noschese stated that there are about 14 deaf people who are employed for Uber which includes both Uber and Lyft drivers that are in the local area. He said that this a job opportunity for people because they are able to work by driving other around and it is a good that there are opportunities for people who have disabilities which is locally in the Pittsburgh area. Mr. Tague said that it is good to hear about it. He asked if there is an additional conversations to this report to make comments or questions.

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Ms. Smidga said that in the Allegheny County, they have developed a public survey and they want everyone's input on the programs, facilities activities and events that is a part of it. She mentioned that to go on the Allegheny County website at the bottom of the webpage there is an accessibility link with her contact information and is developed frequently and there is a public survey on there. She said that they are asking for feedback for anything that is regarding the county. Mr. Tague asks Mr. Meritzer to send out the information on it to everyone. Mr. Meritzer responds say that it is on his list and should be on the back table. Mr. Tague thanks Ms. Smidga for mentioning it and giving them an opportunity for the input. He also mentioned that he want to community to look good. Ms. Smidga said that she needs to work with other folks on this because she is getting surveys back regarding the Port Authority. She also said that she wants to get that information to the authorities that are considered to be appropriate. Ms. Dore asks what type of surveys should be send to the Port Authority. She said the Port Authority is not accessible for people who have hard of hearing because when they buy a pass they have some difficulties with it. Mr. Tague said that he is talking about the service center specifically. Mr. Tague said that Ms. Smidga is getting response from the survey and wonders where to go to and if it is something that she was saying. Ms. Smidga said that she is not doing a survey with the Port Authority and there are folks that complete the survey might have problems that is regarding it or with the airport. Mr. Tague said to Ms. Smidga that he is going to get in contact with the Port Authority and speak to Mr. Dubone because he is the liaison with the Allegheny Transit Counsel and the community for accessible transportation. He mentioned that he will speak to Mr. Richy for Ms. Smidga first on how to handle it and the survey being finish. Mr. Tague said that he will contact Ms. Smidga first and will call her. Ms. Carter said she will bring up the issue for the next meeting. She discusses on the issue of people that have furniture outside on their sidewalks and pointed out that it is hard to get around and hearing issues from other people about it. She said that she didn't know who had a discussion on the issue about it but there are people that need to have access. She said that if there is physical limitation trying to get around of the outdoor furniture on the sidewalks. Mr. Tague pointed out the issues that was at Primanti Bros where they boxed the area with meal. He said that when it was boxed it is the patrons themselves and they will sit in front of people. Mr. Meritzer said that work has been done on it with the Complete Streets Project. He mentions that the sidewalk accessibility is part of the Complete Streets project and that it is something that they are going to discuss on it. Mr. Meritzer mentioned the last developed meeting for the task force committee that the Public Works director said that the sandwich boards was a big problem which was under regulation which was new to everyone in his department. He said that he emailed to see if he can see those regulations for it.

He said that he had one of his high school students went through the obstruction code amendments to search for sandwich boards or signs. Mr. Meritzer said that there is no reference to it at all. Mr. Tague asked he told him about it and Mr. Meritzer answered saying that it was the director of public works who mentioned it to him. Mr. Meritzer mentioned that the director of public works told him that there were regulations and that they were in compliance. Mr. Tague said that Mr. Meritzer had one of the directors tell him that and asked did he need a way to contact him. Mr. Meritzer said no that they are going to deal with because the issue is that if it wasn't under regulations, they can't cite him on it. Mr. Tague thought that there were some legislations on it but Mr. Meritzer answered saying that it was the sidewalk county sheriff. He mentioned that the sheriff wanted to do legislation on the obstruction of the sidewalk but it didn't happen when they got the obstruction code amendments and there wasn't any references to it. Mr. Tague asked were the complete streets was addressed and Mr. Meritzer said that he is going to do everything in his power to make sure it is addressed. Mr. Tague asked if there would a conversation with the counsel President Krause about it and Mr. Meritzer said that he should invite him to a meeting. Mr. Meritzer made a suggestion that it should be discussed with the Complete Streets in six months. Mr. Tague suggests that they should invite President Kraus to the meeting to discuss on this and Ms. Carter agrees with it. Mr. McGann said that they need to make a recommendation with the city/county or the city councils informing them about what is going on. He asked is there is something setup if it is there in regards of it. He said it would require them to have it approved there first and asked if it is out there or currently. Mr. Meritzer said that no one has been able to show him anything that is out there and to say that nothing is out there. He said that he asked people to send him information and they never sent it to him. He said that if it is out there he will not know where it is at. He said if they dssal with the Complete Streets project and he can't say this but just get them out of here because having private advertising of the public way is very unprofessional for the use of space. He said that the business pays for the sandwich boards and he is sure that law departments would be concerned with it. He said if people want to make sure that, such as sidewalk dining which they are in a specific location for it which is not as bad as Carson Street. He said that where he feels like he is running an obstacle course where he is walking down the street with sandwich boards everywhere. Mr. Meritzer mentions that there is a pillar for AT&T in the morning when he is coming to work and he moves it to the side. He said that there are always in the middle of the streets. Mr. Tague said that the interesting thing is that he is sure that it is in the code on sidewalk instructions. Mr. Tague mentioned that he had issues with the legal department and ask Mr. O'Hanlon for questions about it. Ms. Carter had a comment about communication and how can they continue to work better on it. She said that she came to these meetings and to find out about the things that are going on that should have been know when she got there.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 P.M. The next meeting will take place on September 12, 2016 at 1:00 P.M. in the first floor Conference Room of 200 Ross Street.