

# Cape Fear Disability Commission General Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2018

## Members Present:

John Edge (CFDC), Jonathan Batts (City of Wilmington), Vanessa Lacer (Wave Transit), David Schultz (DSDHH-WRC), Hayley Sink (ACCESS of Wilmington), Jennifer Bell (EasterSeals UCP), Stacie Curley (EasterSeals UCP), Michael Friant (Motivational Speaker), John Hondros (Port City Daredevils) Yasin Holland (Rape Crisis Center – Coastal Horizons), Dustin Robinson (Town of Kure Beach), David Todd (UNCW)

## I. Call to Order

- Vanessa Lacer called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM
- General Announcements – Vanessa Lacer:
  - Anyone wishing to speak during the meeting please raise your hand and provide name and organization for the benefit of all members and the sign language interpreters.

## II. Approval of February 2018 Minutes

- No amendments. Motion for approval made by John Edge, seconded by David Todd.

## III. Bylaw Amendment

- Motion to amend bylaws to allow voting membership following attendance at two (2) meetings was accepted with quorum met during February 2018 meeting.
- Changes are highlighted in *Section II: Composition and Qualifications*.
  - Executive Committee Meetings do count toward attendance requirements, as well as General Meetings.

### Section II: Composition and Qualifications

Members shall be in good standing and shall maintain a good attendance record. Members shall earn voting privileges by attending at least **two** consecutive meetings. Members may lose voting privileges by missing three consecutive meetings without notification to the Chairperson. With the appropriate notification to the Chairperson members may be absent for valid reasons and keep their voting privileges. Members who have temporarily lost voting privileges may regain them by attending **two** consecutive meetings. Non-voting members are encouraged to continue to attend meetings.

## IV. Reports

- RP1: City of Wilmington Report – Jonathan Batts
  - Special Olympics Camp: Accessible Location Needed! Late-June, Early-July for 250-300 SO Athletes; Contact Tiffany at [Tiffany.Lesley@wilmingtonnc.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Lesley@wilmingtonnc.gov)
  - North Water Front Park:
    - Parking remains a concern, both accessible and non-accessible.
    - Design approved, but now is the time for input from citizens on details.

**Q:** Violence downtown impacting the park? – John Hondros  
**A:** Directed to City of Wilmington Police Department
  - Inland Greens – Ready to open, name being considered by City
    - Playground not going to initially be fully accessible. Will be completed in phases.
- RP2: Wave Transportation Report – Vanessa Lacer
  - Reminder that Wave Bus and DART passes are available to attend CFDC meetings. Contact Vanessa at (910) 202-2045 or [vlacer@wavetransit.com](mailto:vlacer@wavetransit.com) for a pass or pick a pass up at CFDC meetings.
  - Improvements are coming to Monkey Junction Wave Bus Stop – The stop will be full accessible by the end of the 2018 calendar year, including two covered shelters with benches. Five (5) more bus stops are in the process of having accessibility improvements.
- RP3: Membership – Hayley Sink
  - Intended to be a time to recognize new members and CFDC members who have received voting rights after attending two (2) meetings.
  - All members introduce themselves, their affiliation, and if new, how they heard about CFDC.
  - Voting members were recognized. No new attendees present.

## V. Old Business

## VI. New Business

- Upcoming Meeting Panels:
  - August – Accessibility, Accommodation, and Advocacy
  - November – Connecting the Dots to Disability Services and Your Rights

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reminder that members that you are allowed to bring flyers and advertise upcoming events during this time.
- John Hondros welcomed attendees to pick-up information about Port City Daredevils and join them at their next event at the Moose Lodge on Carolina Beach Road in Wilmington.
- Visit the CFDC Facebook for all announcements in between quarterly meetings. Go to [www.facebook.com/CFDCILM](http://www.facebook.com/CFDCILM). Send Vanessa all announcements, fliers, etc., that would be of interest to members to [vlacer@wavetransit.com](mailto:vlacer@wavetransit.com) and she will post them to the CFDC Facebook page.
- November CFDC Meeting rescheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> due to Thanksgiving Holiday.
- Metropolitan Transportation Survey – Very important as it dictates federal funding allocation for transportation.
  - Learn more and complete at <http://capefearmovingforward2045.org/>.
  - Wilmington MPO also has public open meetings. Details at <https://www.wmpo.org/agendas-minutes/>.
- ACCESS of Wilmington – Join Miracle League at the Summer Opening Day Kick Off on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5 PM! We will cookout 5-6 PM, then at 6 PM all of our All Stars, Buddies, and Friends will be split in 2 teams and we will play under the lights! We are also thrilled to have special guest Cory Lee who blogs at [Curb Free with Cory Lee](#), and will be bringing back movie night beginning at 8 PM, following Miracle League!

## INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER PANEL: PARKS AND RECREATION

- **David Todd, Safety and Accessibility Specialist, UNCW Environmental Health and Safety; Board Member, Making Waves Foundation**  
**Contact: [toddd@uncw.edu](mailto:toddd@uncw.edu) | 910.962.4287**
  - Making Waves Foundation – Charitable Foundation of Wave Transit
  - Mission: Awards grants to organizations to provide neighbors to access affordable transportation for education, getting to and from doctor's appointments, seeking and maintain employment, attending after school programs, etc.
  - \$ 75,000 in assistance given to date through the Making Waves Foundation!
  - Apply at <https://www.wavetransit.com/making-waves-foundation/>

Making Waves Foundation Video: <https://vimeo.com/260447827>

Flyer attached.

- **Barbette Colvin, New Hanover County DSS Social Work Supervisor**  
**Contact: [bcolvin@nhcgov.com](mailto:bcolvin@nhcgov.com) | 910.798.3780**
  - Work First Family Assistance Program: Provide services like childcare and transportation through Wave Transit, Cape Fear Taxi, Mileage Reimbursement. If individual is working toward becoming self-sufficient through obtaining disability or employment.
  - If interested come into DSS and you will be assigned a social worker. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM-5 PM; Wednesdays until 6 PM.

Learn more at <https://socialservices.nhcgov.com/services/families/#>

- **Michael Bennet, New Hanover County DSS Administration Supervisor**  
**Contact: [mbennett@nhcgov.com](mailto:mbennett@nhcgov.com) | 910.798.3482**
  - 8,000+ trips per month provided through Medicaid Transportation.
  - Contact DSS for intake appointment for Medicaid Transportation.
  - *Comment:* Thank you for sharing your information with us. We are here to help and want to accommodate!
- **Cliff Rode, Wave Transit Paratransit Manager**  
**Contact: [crode@wavetransit.com](mailto:crode@wavetransit.com) | 910.202.2052**
  - 1,500+ DART trips per month; 3,000+ through Medicaid Transportation
  - *Comment:* We are here to help, and please contact us with input!
- **Vanessa Lacer, Wave Transit Mobility Manager**  
**Contact: [vlacer@wavetransit.com](mailto:vlacer@wavetransit.com) | 910.202.2045**
  - *Comment:* We are all here to help and serve the community! I am involved with community outreach on behalf of Wave Transit. Please reach out and send any thoughts to me that you would like for me to share.
  - Programs:
    - Travel Training Program
    - Dial-A-Ride (DART) Program
    - Reduced Fair Rider ID Card: Fixed Route at 50% off
    - UNCW Shuttle and Fixed Route Service
    - Wave Commuter Pool Van Program

- Fixed Route System – 15 Fixed Routes
- Community Outreach: Federal Grant Opportunity – Awarded to Senior Centers within two counties in 2017.
- Transportation Options:
  - You can access regional transportation through Forden Station – Greyhound Bus and Shuttle to Amtrak
  - Wave Transit – Serves NHC, Carolina Beach, North Brunswick (Leland, Belville, Navassa)
  - Brunswick County Transit – Must be Brunswick County resident
  - Pender County Transit – Open to public

\* All connect

Flyer attached.

### Questions and Answers:

**Comment:** Diverse traveler, Raleigh and Charlotte, made recommendations to look at these programs as transportation is a barrier to employment and other opportunities in our community. – John Hondros

**Q:** Does Wave Transit go to Kure Beach, if not, is this possible? – Dustin Robinson

**A:** No, at the moment only goes to Carolina Beach. Every 5 years a transportation analysis is done. Needs financial, political, and public support to make possible.

**Q:** Reimbursement of a ride from DART no shows? After waiting 45 minutes, and then having to take Uber or Lyft. – Michael Friant

**A:** There is no reimbursement process. Appointment based system with 300 trips per day. Window set by federal guidelines of 5 minutes before or 25 minutes after. Current notification system is an IVR, all based on schedule. Should call you the night before and when the bus is on the way,

**Q:** Is there a Texting System for Wave Transit Bus and DART? – Michael Friant

**A:** Not currently. Within the next calendar year there will likely be the technology to text or have an app where you can check on the bus location. It is expensive and infrastructure takes time to develop as well.

**Q:** Unpleasant interactions with Wave Transit operators are frustrating to a rider living with disabilities. – Michael Friant

**A:** This is an area of focus for Wave Transit. Operators are currently attending sensitivity training and training for interactions with individuals with disabilities specifically.

**Q:** Why does Wave Transit not have a metro card with declining balance? – John Hondros

**A:** To do this on one bus is over \$16,000. Also requires cellular data to implement.

**Q:** Why does Wave Transit not have a call center staffed by individuals with disabilities – John Hondros

**A:** There are currently translators that are available to schedule transportation. Limited due to funding and demand not present for a full-time staff.

**Q:** Why does the DART bus cost \$4.00 each ride? – Michael Friant

**A:** Funding is not as available as it is in a major city like Raleigh or Charlotte. Wave would love to make DART free! Currently a DART ride cost Wave \$19 versus the \$4 that the rider pays. Fixed route ride cost Wave \$7 versus \$2 that the rider pays. This is because of state and federal funding utilized to offset the costs of transportation.

**Q:** How do you set up Medicaid transport through DSS? – Vanessa Lacer

**A:** Call into DSS and come for an intake appointment. Very simple process.

**Q:** Do they have to physically come to DSS for Medicaid transport intake? – Stacie Curley

**A:** No. They can come in or call DSS.

**Q:** What is the Medicaid transportation for? – Vanessa Lacer

**A:** Only for medical appointments.

**Q:** Is a Physician's Note for DSS? – Stacie Curley

**A:** Coordinate and take the type of Medicaid, provider calls for the assessment, does not have to do the DART application first.

**Q:** What is the Work First Family Assistance transportation process? – Vanessa Lacer

**A:** We use the most cost effective transportation. Uses Wave Transit fixed route whenever possible and DART when possible and eligible. Then utilizes Cape Fear Taxi and others.

**Q:** Are groceries allowed on DART, as well as assistance with groceries? – Michael Friant

**A:** Yes. Drivers do not assume assistance is needed or desired, so please ask. Limited to two (2), 25 pound bags of groceries, but it is realized that is often not possible, so as long as it is not excessive or causing harm or possible danger to other drivers it is allowed (i.e. cans rolling, hard coolers). Soft coolers are allowed.

**Q:** Worried about current system transportation to get go to class at Cape Fear Community College beginning in Fall 2018? – Michael Friant

**A:** Fixed Route and DART goes to both CFCC Downtown and North Campus. We can help you map your transportation routes.

**Q:** Is ADA funding available for Wave Transit at Federal and State level? – John Hondros

**A:** Executive Director Albert Eby allowed for Wave to be awarded a federal grant for over 3 million dollars to add new busses to the fleet. Wave was one of two municipalities to receive the grant in the state of North Carolina. Wave must run the transit system to be equitable for everyone.

Elected officials are on the Wave Transit Board of Directors. Meetings are open to the public. Next meeting is on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, at Noon. Agenda posted on website.

*Comment:* Need representation from individuals with disabilities for the Board and Elected Officials to understand. Bluetooth beacons as a possibility for visually impaired – Can be used to show that you close to bus stops, getting from point A to point B. – John Hondros

I think that this group is looked to for this and can certainly help. It takes a mutli-faceted approach, but many entities control the property and jurisdiction. – Vanessa Lacer

## **VII. Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn made by Vanessa Lacer at 11:48 AM. Seconded by Jonathan Batts.

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:** July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10:30 AM

**Next General Meeting:** August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10:30 AM

*\*Meetings held at New Hanover County Government Center Human Resources Suite 135.*