

## CFIT Minutes for December 10, 2016

In addition to our regular attendees we had the pleasure of having 2 new people attend. As it turns out, both are running for at large positions on the Lincoln City Council. Amy invited Bennie Shobe and Marilyn invited Lou Braatz. Both men were very interested in our organization and what we are doing. We wish them both good luck!

1. Marilyn read the minutes because we had two guests who had not received the minutes by email. Amy made a motion to accept and Jamie made the second. Motion passed.

2. Marion once not present so Marilyn gave the financial report. She reported that we had \$402.33 in our checking account. Motion by Amy second by Jamie. Motion passed.

3. Marilyn reported that she is running for Vice President of the Local ATU 1293. If elected she will need to limit her involvement with Citizens for Improved Transit. The group will need to replace her as recording secretary as soon as possible. She will remain active as a liaison, and will continue in a less active role.

4. Richard reported on the Mayor's press conference which took place on December 8. The news conference was in response to a suggestion by LIBA President, Coby Mack. Mr. Mack would like to see a change in the long term transportation plan. He has suggested that the city should reconsider the 80% for streets and 20% for public transportation, trails, sidewalks, etc. and change to equation to 90% and 10%. This equation is flawed because much of the money that goes to Star Tran, trails, and sidewalks is specifically allocated for that purpose. Redirecting the money to streets would actually cost the city money because they would lose funding. Richard was asked to attend the news conference along with Beatty Brasch, Mike DeKalb, the Assistant Superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools and the president of the Lincoln Trail's Association. The Mayor made a persuasive argument to keep things as they are. Richard and the others agreed that the percentages should remain as they are. This is not over yet.

5. Richard and Don Nelson will speak at the City Council meeting on Monday, December 12 at 1 PM.

6. Richard and Marilyn explained the tweaks on the routes 40, 42, 49, and 46.

7. Richard discussed "Hidden" bus stop signs and useless bus benches and shelters. There was much discussion from Hardy, Jamie, and Amy regarding the difficulty for people who are visually impaired to know where the bus stop is located. Jamie mentioned that the National Federation for the Blind has also expressed concern about this problem. The group also discussed concerns about bus stops that are located in the middle of the block because accessibility will be limited when there is snow on the ground. The group believes that these concerns need to be address so that drivers and passengers understand the rules. Marilyn will contact Mike Davis regarding this matter. There was also discussion about the lack of buses stopping at the Nebraska State Office Building.

8. Richard explained that many of the bus stops have a blue box directly below them that currently contains some cute marketing slogans. Examples of these are: "Love Texting - No Problem", "No Umbrella - No Problem", "No Gas - No Problem". At some point the advertising slogans will be replaced with Route schedules and/or maps.

9. There was discussion about passengers reactions to the new routes. Several people commented that most passengers see the changes as positive.
10. Amy has an opportunity to work for her uncle in Alabama. She plans to be gone for about a month and a half. The group was happy for Amy and it was decided that we will hold her position as vice president until she returns.
11. Amy worked very hard to try to set up a time when CFIT could volunteer to help with the handing out toys for underprivileged families at the Center for People in Need. Unfortunately we didn't have enough people who were able to work that day. We will try again in the future to do something for the Center for People in Need.
12. Group discussed ideas for new wording for the next order of our T-shirts.
13. Marilyn was able to set up an automatic payment for the Cricket cell phone and will work on setting up an automatic payment for our postoffice box.
14. Don and Richard will be working with the Chamber of Commerce and will give us a report at our next meeting.
15. Richard will contact the Downtown Lincoln Association regarding the study of the Star Shuttle route and schedules.
16. Amy should be able to set up our supermarket fund raising for 2017. She will report this information to Marilyn before the next meeting.
17. Marilyn reported that the eight new drivers are all doing well and driving on their own. Star Tran has just started training eight more drivers and those drivers should be able to start driving on their own in January. If they all stay Star Tran will finally be up to full capacity on drivers.
18. Richard had copies of the pro rail Nebraska newsletter for anyone who is interested and seeing it.
19. There was no old business.
20. There was no new business.
21. Motion to adjourn by Hardy, second by Jamie. Motion passed.