



**Minutes from the
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2020**

Virtual meeting: GoTo Meeting.

*Because connections were not perfect and attendees
lost audio from time to time, these minutes are
more thorough than usual.*

PresentTheresa Pollick, Sheri Bokros, Mark North, Holly Kemler, Meg Adams, Tom Waniewski, Patrice James

AbsentBill Sandford, Phil Rudolph, Scott Carpenter

StaffMary Pat McCarthy, Mike Tippett

Welcome/Call to Order. Theresa Pollick began the meeting at 12: 05 p.m. Holly Kemler joined at 12:10. Attendees added their names and affiliations to the Chat box of the GoTo Meeting interface. Theresa Pollick did an audible roll call, confirming attendance and that everyone could communicate.

ACTIONS

Approval of the September 5, 2019 minutes. The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 5, 2019 meeting. Meg Adams moved to approved. The motion was seconded by Sheri Bokros. Pollick asked if there were any objections to approval. Hearing no objections and seeing none in the chat section, the minutes were approved.

Election of leadership. Mary Pat McCarthy asked for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Theresa Pollick has been acting as Interim Chair since January 2020 although we had not had a quorum to vote. She proposed herself for Chair. After requests, there were no additional nominations for Chair. Mary Pat McCarthy requested nominations for Vice Chair. Sheri Bokros said she would continue in that position. The motion was made to approve the 2020 Chair and Vice Chair nominees by Tom Waniewski. Patrice James seconded the motion. Mary Pat McCarthy asked if there were any objections. Hearing none and seeing none in the chat section, Theresa Pollick was approved as Chair and Sheri Bokros was approved as Vice Chair.

Updates on old business from Mike Tippett and Mary Pat McCarthy

- Development of the new website. Mike Tippett reported that the web development was on target for launch end of June, 2020. The Toledo Blade requested public records on the bidding process. Tom Waniewski stated that he had talked to one of the bidders who did not get the job and that he had explained to that bidder that the process was fair and well-discussed.

- Bike Month. Most of the month's activities were cancelled due to the COVID-19 emergency. The Ride of Silence will continue as a virtual event. The staff is helping to promote that. The National Bike Month organization is tentatively planning to reschedule Bike to Work week for September. TMACOG might also reschedule some events for September including Bike Day at the Farmers Market. There will be no Bike to School Day in 2020. TMACOG staff is promoting videos about safe cycling done in previous years and posting cycling information on social media. Staff is also pitching stories to TV and Blade newspaper. The bike pages of the TMACOG website were completely updated to promote the video series and make bike maps accessible. Staff created a feature story for the City Paper about two area bike paths. It tells the story of how governments work together with park systems to create bike paths.
- Student Watershed Watch. This year's teacher training will be done with videos that TMACOG will produce in house and present as a webinar.
- Summer Caucus. TMACOG leadership has not decided if the Summer Caucus and Forum with Elected Officials will be held in late July this year. The committee discussed options for a remote or virtual event. Sheri Bokros said that they have had quite a few legislators participating in Mannik and Smith meetings. Mark North said that he would be hesitant to participate in a virtual schools caucus session because of the work load caused by the COVID shutdown of schools. Schools do not know if they are going to have traditional classes next year or if they are all going online. Theresa Pollick said that her agency is trying to maintain services at an operational level and protecting the safety of employees. She said that outreach to peers was secondary but it's something that should be looking at. She added that it would be good to get legislators involved. If TMACOG could provide a platform for extremely busy people, it would be important to do it.
- Ozone Action Season. Mike Tippett shared to new creative campaign with members of the committee by email before the meeting. It has an emphasis on the science of ozone. It will be posted on bus shelters and the pedicabs soon and is already up on City of Toledo billboards.
- Mike Tippett asked how the team is doing outreach during this time. TMACOG has been sending out messages from the President and the Chair. Tom Waniewski said he was communicating with a lot of e-mail to and from stakeholders.
- The group reviewed dates for the next committee meetings. Some important meetings are still up in the air because it is unclear when stakeholders will be willing to meet in person. NWWSD has a meeting scheduled for July at Put-in-Bay but not sure if that will go through. If coffee shops are open by July, the next meeting will be at a shop.
- The meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

2020 meetings:

| July 2 or 9 | September 3 | November 5