

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)

Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2023

Attendance

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair

Bob Kresmer

Karla Rivas-Parker

Nathan Pullen

Sue LeHew

Mark Nelson

Members Absent

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of December 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the December 14, 2022 meeting minutes. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

AT Committee Updates

Bea Shapiro stated the committee had previously discussed whether or not to present at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo

(VRATE) in March. Karla Rivas-Parker stated her understanding that the VRATE Board was in the process of contacting potential presenters. Bea Shapiro stated that she would not be able to participate in a VRATE presentation, although the committee could still provide one. Bob Kresmer stated the DeafBlind Committee recommended the GCBVI hold a Town Hall meeting at VRATE, if the committee was able to identify deafblind individuals interested in attending. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the AT Committee would still be interested in presenting on AT related topics. Bob Kresmer stated that if the council held a Town Hall meeting at VRATE, someone could also discuss AT for deafblind individuals. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that she could see if Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) had technology for the deafblind population that could be demonstrated at VRATE. Bea Shapiro agreed and noted that she would contact the VRATE Board to let them know about the AT Committees' presentation.

AT Outreach Update

Bea Shapiro stated Sun Sounds contacted her, requesting the committees' next podcast be about the iPhone. Ms. Shapiro suggested the committee break the topic into 2 podcasts for January and February. Karla Rivas-Parker suggested the committee discuss screen magnification and some of the apps on the iPhone. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee would like to discuss screen magnification and voice over for the two podcasts. Karla Rivas-Parker noted that the committee would only be able to describe the screen magnification and would not be able to demonstrate it. Ms. Rivas-Parker suggested the committee discuss voice over and apps. Bea Shapiro stated that she had some of the apps, such as Be My Eyes. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that she might be able to procure a newer iPhone for the podcast. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could find out information about the newer devices and discuss them during the podcast.

AT Trends

Bea Shapiro stated that she heard several people had problems with the latest iOS update. Karla Rivas-Parker concurred that she had several dropped calls after the update. Bea Shapiro stated that she would like to get the new Echo device. Bob Kresmer stated he recently purchased a new smart TV and was in the process of syncing it to Alexa.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for January 18th. Agenda items are as follows:

- AT Committee Activities Discussion
- AT Outreach Update
- AT Trends

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

A call to the public was made with no response forthcoming.

Adjournment of Meeting

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Karla Rivas-Parker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.