

Draft
Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment
(GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2023

Attendance

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair
Bob Kresmer
Karla Rivas-Parker
Nathan Pullen
Jeff Bishop
Sue LeHew

Members Absent

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Bernadette Evans

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of September 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Jeff Bishop motioned to approve the September 20, 2023 meeting minutes. Bob Kresmer seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

AT Committee Updates

Bea Shapiro stated the next Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) was not scheduled until November of 2024, which gave the committee time to plan a presentation. She noted the committee had presented on low-vision resources and job site evaluations at previous VRATE events, which were good presentations. Jeff Bishop agreed that the committee could present at VRATE but cautioned the committee from taking on too many obligations. He noted the committee should plan their activities wisely regarding the podcasts and presentations.

AT Outreach Update

Bea Shapiro stated the committee had previously discussed extending the AT in the Desert podcasts to one hour and moving them to iTunes, although she liked partnering with Sun Sounds. Jeff Bishop stated the committee could request the previous podcasts from Sun Sounds, which could be added to iTunes. Bea Shapiro stated she could request the committee's previous podcasts. Jeff Bishop suggested the committee plan for podcasts about three months out and could start the new recordings in January. Mr. Bishop stated that a couple of the committee members could come up with potential podcast topics for the upcoming months. He added that the committee could use Zoom to record the podcasts as long as committee members had good microphones. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee would need to create an Apple account to share podcasts on iTunes. Jeff Bishop stated the committee would need an email with an Apple ID to tie to the account, and the podcasts should be uploaded to iTunes within a couple of days. Bea Shapiro stated she could request previous podcasts from Andrea Pasquale at Sun Sounds. Ms. Shapiro inquired whether committee members should also purchase better headsets for the podcasts. Jeff Bishop stated committee members should be sitting close to their microphones to ensure the best audio quality and could use an iPad or their PC.

Bea Shapiro stated the committee would typically do a round-table podcast format, where each member could talk briefly about the topic. She noted that Bob Kresmer was helpful in asking questions during the podcasts. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding Ms. Shapiro's vision for the podcasts. Bea Shapiro stated that she would like the podcasts to reach the blind and visually impaired community and to offer information about Assistive Technology (AT) and resources at the local and national levels. Jeff Bishop stated the podcasts could include an introduction/welcome, a brief description of what was trending, a podcast spotlight such as an organization, a roundtable discussion, AT trends, and questions and answers at the end. He stated the committee could end the podcasts with an announcement for what would be discussed in the next podcast. Sue LeHew inquired regarding the number of podcasts the committee would be recording. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could record one podcast per month. Sue LeHew stated that could be difficult and inquired whether committee members would have time. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that committee members could record their own segment of the podcast separately, and then edit them into the podcast. Bea Shapiro agreed that would work.

AT Trends

Bea Shapiro stated Zuzanka had a new feature that allowed individuals to scan and read expiration dates, although she was unsure how useful it was. She noted that she had not updated to the new iOS yet. Karla Rivas-Parker stated she had updated to the new iOS and had not had any problems. She noted that with the new updates, she was able to fit all of her apps on one screen and could swipe to access each. Ms. Rivas-Parker stated that a new Android, Vision 3, allowed talk back with hand gestures, a keypad, and a Google button. Nathan Pullen stated a new Pixel phone had been released with new accessibility features such as an expanded camera detection function that differentiated animals and people. He added the features would be added to iOS also. Jeff Bishop stated the new iPhone 15 had been released, which did have an upgraded camera, although it did not have many new accessibility features. Mr. Bishop noted the new iWatch did include a double tap option and could be useful if individuals had older versions.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for November 15. Agenda items are as follows:

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

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment of Meeting

Jeff Bishop motioned to adjourn the meeting. Karla Rivas-Parker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.