

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

June 19, 2024

Attendance

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair
Karla Rivas-Parker
Jeff Bishop
Sue LeHew

Members Absent

Bob Kresmer
Nathan Pullen

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Approval of May 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Jeff Bishop motioned to approve the May 15, 2023 meeting minutes. Karla Rivas-Parker seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

AT Committee Updates

Bea Shapiro stated the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) had been rescheduled for November 1st at Ability 360. Ms. Shapiro stated that VRATE would not be partnering with AER anymore. Bea Shapiro stated the committee was given permission to provide 2 presentations of 1 hour each. She noted that she would forward the paperwork regarding the presentation to Jeff Bishop to complete. Bea Shapiro stated the committee had agreed to present on the pros and cons of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and to educate individuals on the new technology. Ms. Shapiro inquired whether Jeff Bishop was still willing to provide the presentation. Jeff Bishop stated

that he would present, and inquired whether other committee members would like to assist in the presentation. Karla Rivas-Parker stated that she would participate in the presentation also. Bea Shapiro stated her understanding that the first presentation would provide an overview of AI, and the second presentation would provide more in depth information. Ms. Shapiro inquired whether the committee had any ideas for the name of the presentation. Jeff Bishop suggested 'AI or not AI, that is the question'. Sue LeHew suggested 'Open our Eyes to AI'. Jeff Bishop noted the committee would be discussing AI across the spectrum and he hoped to structure the presentation so that individuals could ask questions during the presentation, which would allow for better engagement. He noted the committee could provide an introduction to AI, how it could be used as an accommodation, how to use AT respectfully, and how it could be used in education or employment settings. He noted that he would be providing a similar presentation and could discuss some of the same information.

AT Committee Outreach

Bea Shapiro stated that she would like to continue offering the committee's podcast. Jeff Bishop stated that he could create a domain, and inquired whether committee members had a preference regarding the name. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the committee would need permission from the Department of Economic Security (DES) to create a domain name for the podcasts. Lindsey Powers stated that she would check with DES regarding the podcast. Bea Shapiro stated that since the podcast was part of the GCBVI, the council's name could be in the title. Jeff Bishop suggested the name of the podcast, AT in the Desert, be the name, such as ATDesert.org. Sue LeHew suggested the name include more of the podcast name. Jeff Bishop stated the name could be ATintheDesert.org. Karla Rivas-Parker inquired whether blind or visually impaired individuals would search for the podcast using those keywords. Ms. Shapiro inquired whether the committee would need to hold a 503 to use a .org account. Jeff Bishop confirmed the committee would not need a 503. Bea Shapiro stated that she would like the committee to cover different areas and topics of AT each month. Jeff Bishop agreed, and noted the committee should discuss topics and services that were unique to Arizona, such as services through SAAVI Services for the Blind or accessibility through Arizona State University or the University of Arizona. He added that the committee could identify topics for the podcast for the next 6 months. Sue LeHew suggested that one the upcoming podcasts be about VRATE.

AT Trends

Jeff Bishop stated Apple would be releasing updates that would improve accessibility overall. He added that JAWS would also be releasing an update in June/July.

Karla Rivas-Parker stated she received the new Ray Ban meta glasses, which were easy to use and affordable. Bea Shapiro stated she received the glasses also and liked that they updated automatically.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meetings of the Assistive Technology Committee were scheduled for July 17th. 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. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.