**National Federation of the Blind, NFB-O Springfield Chapter**

**October 11, 2025**

**July 19, Minutes**

**Attendance**

Mickie, Arlie, Gina, Pat, Dave, Susan, Debbie

President Ray called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. Motion: Dave/Mickie to approve the secretary’s report as posted. Gina reported our beginning balance as $2,114.56. The ending balance was $2,094.56. She said the chapter received a $300 from the Banaszaks. Motion: Mickie/Pat to approve the treasurer’s report.

Gina has submitted two applications for NFB Springfield to attend two community events to recruit membership, distribute flyers about our purpose, share swag and NFB literature. The first is the Texas Roadhouse Community Fest from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. including setup. That event will substitute as our usual business meeting. The next application is for us to attend Wuffstock at Snyder Park on Saturday, September 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. including setup. We discussed the possibility of including a video loop that could air during these recruitment events. If we are able to find an editor for the video, it would demonstrate a blind member cooking independently at home. Each member, Pat, Aleeha and Debbie, volunteered as subjects for the video. We decided to table further discussion of the cooking video so that we can organize that effort.

**Unfinished Business**

Arlie met again with Jason Via, head of Springfield’s new city transit service called Field Trips. President Payne attended the meeting while on the phone. Some problems with the service include patrons’ inability to submit an application to use the service on either the website or the app. The submit button is not labeled, and therefore inaccessible. Nor can riders transfer their paratransit memberships to the service. Field Trips’ hours of operation, (only on week days) are 6:40 a.m. to 6:40 p.m. The service has no weekend operation. The required Certificate of Disability that a rider must submit cannot be downloaded and printed. Glen Massie, former head of Springfield City Area Transit also attended the meeting. Evidently the service is not curb to curb. A rider must walk to the nearest waypoint, (usually the nearest street corner to the rider’s home. Arlie hopes to involve the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in further talks with Jason Via. Arlie wondered aloud if anyone ordering retail products through the new website Innosearch could apply the discount afforded by an Amazon Prime membership to the Innosearch order. He also mentioned that AIRA is launching its own Visual Interpretation Project. It will be similar to that of Microsoft’s Be My Eyes app.

As our meeting time grew short, we decided that we would watch the July Presidential Release on our own. Our next meeting will be on Zoom, August 9. Ultimately, Arlie decided that we would skip that meeting since he had no new agenda items to present. Motion: Mickie/Pat to adjourn. Our next meeting will be Saturday, October 11 at 10:00—11:45 a.m. at United Senior Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Baker, Secretary