



MEETING MINUTES  
Benton County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC)  
December 17, 2020

The meeting of the Benton County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee was held by WebEx at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2020. Present at the meeting were committee members Brenda Chilton-Chair, Amanda Hatfield (County Elections Manager), Lorene Roe (Chief Deputy Auditor), Shyanne Palmus (Commissioners' Office), Judith Davis, Gretchen Hormel, and Deidra Beck (Committee Coordinator).

Brenda Chilton opened the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Deidra Beck reviewed the returning members who were approved by Resolution of the Benton County Board of Commissioners to fill the ACAC vacancies for the terms expected to expire December 31, 2020. Amanda Hatfield (County Elections Manager) was appointed to fulfill the one-year term of 01/01/2021 through 12/31/2021, while the following members were appointed to fulfill the two-year term of 01/01/2021 through 12/31/2022: Kyle Bosley, Judith Davis, Gretchen Hormel, Shyanne Palmus, and Teresa Payne.

Deidra also shared that, in follow-up to the news of one member's resignation last month, we have a new applicant scheduled for an interview. Upon successful completion of the applicant interview, Deidra will submit the applicant for approval to the Board of Commissioners as soon as possible in January 2021.

Brenda reminded the committee that she would be stepping down from membership to the committee at the end of this month of December due to many conflicts in her schedule. She hopes to join our meetings when she can and stated that she has enjoyed the last couple of years on the committee. She feels that we have had a very good start and are in a good position as we end this year. Her encouragement to the committee is that we meet as soon as possible in the new year to outline our short-term goals and objectives to propel us into a successful 2021. The committee expressed many thanks and appreciation to Brenda for all of her help and leadership.

The committee moved on to discuss Ed Carter's article "Advice for the Disabled Running for Office". After introducing the article in our November 2020 meeting, the committee had been encouraged to review the article sent with the November meeting minutes. Deidra shared the comments forwarded to her from members that responded. Both Matt Nash and Gretchen Hormel expressed concern that, while it has some good information, and the link requires one to set up an account in order to directly connect with the business, it could be misconstrued as a business endorsement. Matt further commented that, as a point of thought, this posting may not actually be any different than when we post a list of accessible businesses we have accumulated from our Site-List Evaluations. Brenda mentioned that although she did not think Mr. Carter's article was suggestive to his business and no author was mentioned, we should be careful, if posted, that we make sure no actual author is listed. Judith suggested that, perhaps, we could post a disclaimer for all articles and businesses on our web page that stated we were not promoting any business. Because a quorum was not present during this meeting, it was decided that Deidra would send a reminder for all members to again review the article and come prepared to our January 2021 meeting to decide on whether we would post the article or not.

The committee again said, "Good-bye", to Brenda Chilton and expressed many thanks for her tremendous contribution to the committee through its formation and development thus far.

All present members decided that it would be best to wait until the first meeting of 2021 to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair. It was agreed that their votes would be expressed by voiced yea/nay. All members will be reminded to come prepared to nominate and vote in the January meeting.

Because our next on January 21, 2021, will be comprised of deciding on the Ed Carter article and the vote of the Chair and Vice-Chair, all agreed that it would be best to postpone our scheduled speaker to our February meeting.

Brenda adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m.