



MEETING MINUTES
Benton County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC)
February 18 , 2021

The meeting of the Benton County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee was held by WebEx at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2021 . Present at the meeting were committee members Matt Nash, Chair, Amanda Hatfield, Vice-Chair (County Elections Manager), Shyanne Palmus (Commissioners' Office), Judith Davis, Matt West, Teresa Payne, Mark Culbertson, and Deidra Beck (Committee Coordinator). Also attending was guest speaker, Darla Rhodes.

Matt Nash opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

As first order of business on the meeting agenda, Deidra informed the committee about the status of the Ed Carter article, "Advice for the Disabled Running for Office". It is currently being reviewed by Benton County Prosecuting Attorney, Reid Hay. He feels that the article should be fine if posted to our web page, but he's looking further into linking any private business information and whether a disclaimer should or should not be included. He will follow up and provide Deidra more information to share with the committee.

Matt Nash introduced our guest speaker, Darla Rhodes. She is a fellow Tri-City resident that has been working with theabilityapp.com organization for about one year now. Begun by Alex Knolls, it has gone through a few years of development and is now available on-line throughout the world. This is an application that seeks to provide a road map for all people to find accessible spaces they are wanting to visit, and it promotes inclusion by providing businesses a direct connection to customers specific needs. On this application from any computer or mobile device, users can research or add information on any public spaces such as retail stores, restaurants, hotels, parks, theaters, businesses, and more. Darla shared the app virtually with the committee and demonstrated its current and developing features including how to use it. She encouraged all of the committee members to access it, become familiar with it, and even create a user space so they can begin adding comments or rating public places themselves. Discussion and questions from the

committee addressed our desire to help and partner with Darla and theabilityapp.com and expressed the hope that we could possibly tie it with our Site List Evaluations. Darla said that she hoped very much that we could work together in the future and promised that she would stay in touch with our ACAC. She plans to share our interest with theabilityapp.com organization and will report to us any ideas they may have for our involvement.

Before the closing of the meeting, Deidra informed the committee that she has scheduled guest speakers for our May and June meetings; Sheila Turner with the Edith Bushel Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired will be our May meeting speaker, and Larry Gorton, with Access4AllSpokane/Spokane ACAC will join us as our guest speaker in June.

Matt Nash adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

Our next meeting is scheduled as a Web Ex meeting on March 18, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.