



MEETING MINUTES

Benton County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC)

January 16, 2020

The meeting of the Benton County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee was held at 2:30 pm on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at the Benton County Justice Center. Present at the meeting were committee members Matt Nash-Vice-Chair, Amanda Hatfield (County Elections Manager), Deidra Beck (Committee Coordinator), Lorene Roe (Assistant to the County Auditor), Jason Erickson (Sheriff's Office), Toni Ball, Kyle Bosley, and Teresa Payne.

After all attendees had signed in, Matt Nash called the meeting to order. The first order of business was the presentation of both resignation letters provided by Gabriella Corona and Jennifer Harper. Matt informed the committee that now that we have official resignation letters from them, we can proceed with presenting them to the Commissioner's Board to officially remove them from the committee and begin filling their positions once new applications are submitted.

The next item on the agenda was to review the Long-Term and Short-Term Goals established by the Committee Workshop held on December 09, 2019. A print of the outlined goals was provided to all attending members, and the floor was opened to questions. Toni asked about what the chronological order would be of our projects. Amanda reminded that probably our first project would be developing a website. Toni questioned whether someone could donate the website. She encouraged reaching out to organizations for donations and stated that she felt that, with information about our committee and what we were wanting to develop, we would get a good response. Toni was hopeful for more details about the development of the website, and Amanda promised that she would contact Shyanne, the committee point person for this goal, and ask her to bring as much detailed information as possible to our next meeting. Toni hopes that Shyanne will bring information to our next meeting detailing what the website would look like and, perhaps, provide examples of possible websites for the committee to look at.

In discussion of the goal of Developing a Business Site Evaluation, Amanda suggested that each member look over the printed example Deidra brought from Access 4 All Spokane and bring their own list of ideas for site evaluations to our meeting in February.

For ideas for our goal of Committee Education Program, Deidra provided a print listing similarly concerned organizations around our community for consideration for potential speakers or meetings we could visit. Toni suggested the VA Resource Center in Pasco, and Theresa suggested David Lloyd from Disability Rights of Washington. Toni requested a letter of introduction be provided for members to use when reaching out to organizations that they would like to invite. Deidra promised to email everyone a letter that she had drawn up early in the development of the committee. While members mentioned some ideas they had for speakers, Matt recommended that members contact the point person for this project before reaching out just to make sure that the same potential speaker is not approached multiple times. Matt also reminded us that, although it was agreed that our goal was to have one speaker per quarter each year, there is nothing stating that we

cannot have more. Members were asked to bring suggestions of contacts to our next meeting so that we can begin to build our list of speakers.

Toni asked that contact information for each point person assigned to a project or action be provided to each committee member. She also expressed concern that the committee should consider delegates or that we should have sub-committees assigned per project. It was stated that it may be difficult to do such as our committee is too small and young to sub-divide at this point.

Lorene requested that some minutes from Spokane's All Access 4 Spokane be brought to our meeting as an example of what they are currently doing. She would also like to see if we can invite someone from another ACAC to come and visit our meeting and bring information from their committee processes and projects. Deidra promised to reach out to Dave Reynolds, the ACAC Coordinator for Spokane.

Amanda reviewed the information she was able to collect regarding the grant money available to us for funding our website and other future projects. She had reached out to Sharon Weinholt with Cowlitz County. Sharon gave her the names of Elaine Stefanowicz and Melinda Johnson, Program Coordinators for the Governor's Committee on Disabilities and Employment. Deidra's take-away from an earlier conversation with Elaine was that the first thing we should do is research the development of our first project and the estimated costs. Then, we would send our proposal forms to the state. Once approved, they will allocate the money into a fund that they control and release them as we submit invoices from our project to them.

To acquaint the committee with "What's going on in Elections this year?", Amanda provided a print-out that briefly explained their current activity in the February election and their plans for the upcoming Presidential Primary Election in March. They are hoping to implement temporary voting centers at various locations in the Tri-Cities during the November General Election. Their emphasis will be on locations that are accessible to voters. In late February or early March, the Elections department will expand throughout the whole Auditor's office at the Courthouse in Prosser. Once moved and settled, she invited members to go and test it out to see how accessible their set up is and if there are any areas in which they could improve.

Toni asked how we could learn what accessibility even means. Deidra encouraged looking through the Access 4 All Spokane site evaluation list which could give a clearer understanding of needs for accessibility. Matt reminded the committee that he had sent everyone a link to a video from Rascal Rodeo called, "We Will Chair". This video addressed accessibility difficulties, and he recommended everyone watch it. (See attached).

Matt invited any questions or comments from the floor, and, as there was no more discussion, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Amanda reminded that the meeting dates for the whole year had been sent to each committee member earlier in the month. Our next meeting is scheduled to be Thursday, February 20, 2020, at this same location in the Benton County Justice Center.