



MEETING MINUTES
Benton County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC)
May 21, 2020

Due to the continuance of Governor Inslee's 'Stay in Place' directives for COVID19, the meeting of the Benton County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee was held by Skype at 2:00 pm on Thursday, May 21, 2020. Present at the meeting were committee members Matt Nash-Vice-Chair, Amanda Hatfield (County Elections Manager), Luz Rudd (Chaplain for Benton County Corrections), Shyanne Palmus (Communications Coordinator-Commissioners), Kyle Bosley, Judith Davis, Gretchen Hormel, Teresa Payne, Matt West, and Deidra Beck (Committee Coordinator).

In Brenda Chilton's absence as Chair, Matt Nash, Vice-Chair, conducted the meeting.

Matt Nash announced the resignation letter we received from committee member Scott Souza, and introduced our two newest members who have been approved by the Board of Commissioners, Gretchen Hormel and Luz Rupp. Our committee is now full to 10 members.

Deidra informed the committee of two speakers scheduled for our 2020 year thus far. Sheila Turner, with Edith Bishel, Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired is scheduled for June 18, 2020, and Donna Tracy, with the ARC of the Tri-Cities for August 20, 2020. Deidra reminded that because Benton County is still in 'Phase 1' of the Four-Phase Coronavirus directives, it appears doubtful that we will be able to have an in-person meeting in June. Thus, she will contact Sheila and, perhaps, reschedule her for July even if that would mean the committee would have two guest speakers in back-to-back months. Paul Singer, with Tri-Cities Residential Services, has not yet been contacted, but Deidra is hopeful to schedule him for our October meeting. She is still attempting to schedule Dave Reynolds with Access4All-Spokane. Theresa mentioned that she knows someone from Disability Rights of Washington that lives in the Tri-Cities, and she is reaching out to them as another possible speaker. She sent this person a flier and will provide more information as she hears from them.

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A new version of a Site-Evaluation Check List has been developed by Deidra, with the assistance of Brenda, Amanda, and Lorene. Deidra shared this new format and will send it to all the members by email for them to review and vote on whether we should accept it as our own official form. The committee agree that 'vote by email' would be acceptable.

Although a site evaluation date has not been confirmed with Bryan Bailey (Prosser High School, standing Principal and member of Prosser Leadership Class), Deidra is hopeful to hear from him soon. As soon as a date can be decided, Deidra will notify the committee so that any that wish to be a part of the evaluation of the PHS Football Stadium can participate.

Deidra shared that she has been in conversation with Marilyn Crandall, Accessible Communities Subcommittee, GCDE (Governor's Committee Disability Issues & Education), regarding whether there would be an issue considering a project that is associated with a public funded school district. Marilyn had reported that, after the subcommittee's review of this concern, it should not be an issue. She stated that it did not matter whether the project was assisting a business or organization that was public or private. Marilyn did report that because the funds for ACAC assistance are currently low, the GCDE is limiting approval to \$10,000 per project per year. Deidra shared Marilyn's advice that should we move forward with the PHS Football Stadium project, we would need to divide the overall goals of the project to one at a time, and the projects would likely have to be limited to only one per year for the same organization. The other thing that we would have to carefully advise would be that if there is any ADA non-compliance problems, it would not qualify as a fundable project because the organization is responsible by law to meet compliance on their own.

Although Deidra has reserved the Richland Public Library for our meetings through August, they have had to cancel them due to the continuing limit on public gatherings. Deidra mentioned that once Benton County does progress to Phase 2 or 3, she will reserve either the Richland Library again or the Benton County Public Service Building on Wiser Parkway. She informed the committee that it is spacious enough, accessible, and very nice. We will have to wait and see how things progress.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. If on that date, we are still in Phase 1 of Governor Inslee’s Four-Phase Coronavirus Recovery Plan, we will continue to meet by Skype meetings. Deidra invited the committee members that if any of them are having difficulty with Skype, to let her know before the meeting, and she would provide them assistance.

Matt Nash adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.