

**Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021
6:30-8 pm**

Members Present: Larry Hector, Joseph Huether, Jeanne Walter, Cynthia Wolski, Connie Taylor-Randall

Public Present: Timothy Barrett, Acting Director of the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization and Sub-Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Excused Absence: Aniko Kuschatka, Joshua Hepler

Unexcused Absence: Aracelli Castro, Kati Tureman, Dwayne Williams

Please remember to email or call chair if you need to be excused from the meeting. Aniko doesn't need to contact chair about absence as this is an accommodation as Zoom is not a platform she can access.

Welcome

Connie welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated those who were excused from the meeting and who had made contact about their inability to attend.

Connie asked for a moment of silence in memory of loved ones who recently passed away including Amy White's mother and Larry Hector's wife, Tina.

**Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021
6:30-8 pm**

Connie welcomed and introduced the new committee member, Joseph Huether, recently appointed to a four year term by the Columbia County Boards of Commissioners.

August Minutes [August 19 Meeting Minutes](#)

Due to a lack of quorum, the approval of the August minutes were tabled until the October meeting.

Sub-Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: Connie

Annual Review of By-Laws - May 20, 2021 - [WWCACAC Bylaws Revised 8-19-2021](#)

Membership Committee: Connie

Member Recruitment and Application Process

Joseph Huether from Columbia County was approved by the Columbia County Board of Commissioners. Connie indicated that we still need more members and encouraged each committee member to contact at least two (2) possible people who might be willing to serve. Application forms are on the website.

Connie announced that Amy White and Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer have resigned their board positions. Amy has other commitments she needs to fulfill at this time and Andrea has accepted a position in Oklahoma. She thanked them for their service.

Connie introduced Timothy J. Barrett, Acting Director of the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021
6:30-8 pm

and Sub-Regional Transportation Planning Organization is interested in replacing Andrea. Connie will send him an application form.

Connie indicated that David Valiant, Walla Walla County Elections Supervisor, is interested in filling the spot vacated by Amelia Odeen. Connie will send him an application form.

Connie said that Angie Peters from Director of Valley Transit and Whitney Eisele, Community Member, are interested in applying for the board as well. She will send them application forms as well.

Larry asked how many members we need. Connie responded between 12 and 20. The member information is more detailed in the by-laws.

Terms of Office [Terms of Office Status](#)

Connie updated the terms of office status for members.

Members in Good Standing and Recommendations - If you have missed three consecutive meetings, you could jeopardize your membership as per the current by-laws. Please contact the chair if you are going to be absent.

Nomination of Officers - Larry Hector has indicated that he would be interested in serving as vice chair. This will be voted on at the October meeting. Connie appointed Jeanne Walter and Joseph Huether to the grant committee after they volunteered to serve. If you are interested in being the secretary for a two year term or any other sub-committee, please let the chair know. We need sub-committee chairs

Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021
6:30-8 pm

for communications/media, housing, grants, employment, accessibility, and care options.

Community Outreach Committee: Kati was absent so there was no report.

Grant Proposal Committee: Connie indicated that grant requests had been received for: 1) Peter T. Erb of the Walla Walla Sunrise Rotary regarding funding needs for the Vista Terrace Park playground update, 2) Jolene Ferguson and Jason Mulkin from the Walla Walla Presbyterian Church for accessibility parking, and 3) Louise Johnson from The Ark Day School for playground resurfacing. Connie indicated she would forward this information to Jeanne and Joe for their perusal. The grant committee will set up a meeting to review the applications and prioritize the submissions to the state. Connie also indicated that grant monies from the state are designed to support projects of many types that can improve disability awareness and improve access for people with disabilities. Our local ACAC encourages our community to think broadly about the diverse nature of projects that can increase disability awareness and improve accessibility for people with disabilities. However, we are less likely to approve proposals that supplant funding that should be the responsibility required under the American Disabilities Act. New grant guidelines from the state are as follows:

October 20 - County ACAC Proposal Presentations 1

November 3 - County ACAC Proposal Presentations 2

Subcommittee Meeting to vote on proposals

Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021
6:30-8 pm

In addition, the state is updating the proposal paperwork and will email it to local units when it is ready. In the meantime, it is fine to submit proposals using the other forms.

Communications/Media Committee: We need a committee chair for this sub-committee. No report.

Transportation Update: Tim introduced himself and gave an update on the roundabout indicating that there were still supply issues for final completion. He also indicated that he is serving as acting director until a replacement for Andrea is hired. Currently, the search is open and more applications are encouraged to apply. He also discussed the citywide crossing survey which can be found on the City of Walla Walla Go Walla Walla Website at <https://www.gowallawalla.us/> He also said that he was involved in tracking movement for pedestrians. This will provide information about areas where there are more needs for pedestrians.

State GCDE ACAC Committee Meeting in July - Our Walla Walla/Columbia County was recognized as the first joint ACAC in the state. Yeah US! Please check your email for the Power Point presentation. Cindy Wolski can answer any specific questions.

Goals - Connie reviewed the goals.

- 1) **Employment** - Improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities
- 2) **Housing** - Increase affordable housing for individuals in the disability community, providing more choices in where they can live
- 3) **Accessibility** - Increase accessibility in Walla Walla Valley, making it more desirable for residents and tourism

Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021
6:30-8 pm

4) **Care Options** - Increase care options for parents/guardians of children and adults with disabilities to provide respite alternatives, care options, and enrichment opportunities.

Goal Progress

1) **Housing Report Update** - We are still in need of an Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Please let the chair know if you are interested. No report.

2) **Accessibility Report Update** - Connie

a) City of Walla Walla - Josh was absent. No report.

b) Walla Walla United States Postal Service - Connie indicated that she had telephone but had not received a call from the new postmaster. Connie will follow up to find out who this is so we can continue to pursue accessibility issues at the post office.

c) Walla Walla Public Schools - Kati was absent. No report.

Dayton Public Schools - Covid outbreak affected the middle/high school causing them to go to remote learning; however, the elementary continued with in-person learning. Difficulties include the virus, leadership, and retirements resulting in staff shortages especially in special education. It is difficult or impossible to provide speech and occupational services virtually. Students are in need of academic assistance. Summer school was an option that did help some students move forward in their learning.

**Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021
6:30-8 pm**

d) Elections - David Valiant is interested in serving. His contact is dvaliant@co.walla-walla.wa.us Connie will send him an invitation and application.

Walla Walla County Department of Health Connection- Nancy Wenzel and Dr. Daniel Kaminsky, MD are heading the Health Department. Cindy Wolski will continue to be our liaison between the department and our committee. Kara Breymeyer, who was the administrator overseeing Cindy Wolski's program, has left the Walla Walla County Department of Health for another position. Cindy also said that the Communications Director who updates the Walla Walla County Website has been very busy with County Health Department needs and requirements for COVID-19. Therefore, she is working with the Health Department to see what she can do to assist with the updating on the Walla Walla County ACAC portion of website. She indicated that one of the links wasn't working properly and she was trying to see what needed to be done to fix it.

DD Update: Cindy indicated that she has had applicants for the Community Health Advisory Board, but that it has been difficult to get volunteers in this current health climate. She said that all providers had been vaccinated. Vaccinations are needed for persons who provide services. She said supportive residential living is having staffing issues.

Announcements and Further Discussion Items

Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021
6:30-8 pm

1) Update on Valdemar Estates Winery - Anikó emailed her report. She indicated that she had contacted Matt Whitfield, the new marketing manager who took David Brauhn's place. She asked him about whether they were still interested in having her go to the winery to do a presentation/tutorial on helping guests with hearing loss. He stated that due to the hot summer we had, harvest was early and they are very busy. He is looking to possibly do it in October. She also said that she made a second visit to Valdemar which was social and the service was great; however, she couldn't lip read the waiter at all because he had a full beard. She was not sure what exactly happened there but will write to Matt and make a suggestion again to please have clean shaven waiters for those who are hearing impaired. She will also contact him again in mid-September about the presentation/tutorial. That is all I have to report. I will email Matt now and let you know what he has stated.

2) Request for Grant Funding - Connie, Jeanne, and Joe will be meeting in the next few days to review grants and make recommendations to the state.

3) Blue Zones Project Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Checklist - Zidane Galant-LaPorte - If anyone is interested, we need a representative on this committee.

4) College Place ADA Transition Plan Committee - Emily Brown - Connie reported on this meeting which is focusing on sidewalks, curbing, ramps, and push buttons for the City of College Place. Connie will forward the Power Point Presentation.

**Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021
6:30-8 pm**

5) National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) - October - Discussion commenced about whether to have a special event or program for NDEAM. Cindy Wolski indicated that she had posters that agencies put out. She said that other cities bring about awareness with a proclamation or news release. The committee agreed that we will postpone this year due to COVID-19 restrictions and aim for doing more next year. Connie will call the U-B to see if we can get some publicity. In addition, check out the What You Can Do Campaign at this website: <https://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/>

6) List of COVID-19 Resources for People with Disabilities provided by Jeanne Walter - Connie will send out the list to all members.

7) Supporting new possible Asotin/Garfield County ACAC Eric Boggan - EBoggan@co.asotin.wa.us - Connie will contact Eric to see what she can do to help facilitate their participation or development of their own ACAC.

Moving Forward - What are our next steps?

a) Membership Recruitment and Application for Members

Whose Terms Have Expired - Please make this a priority to encourage people who meet the qualifications for membership on this committee to apply.

b) Employment - Need ad hoc sub committee chair

c) Housing - Need new ad hoc sub committee chair

d) City of Walla Walla Next Steps

i) WWACAC member to serve on Bicycle/Pedestrian

Committee Issue - Connie and Josh will follow up with

Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021
6:30-8 pm

the status of this with the City Manager and other personnel.

- ii) Develop checklist for Downtown Alfresco Accessibility for Policy Development - This still needs to be done. If anyone is interested, please let the chair know.
- iii) Develop pamphlet and materials on Accessibility for Building Permit Office
This still needs to be done. If anyone is interested, please let the chair know.
- iv) Partner with Developmental Disabilities in Inclusion Stickers and Informational Pamphlets for Walla Walla Businesses - This still needs to be done. If anyone is interested, please let the chair know.
- v) Possible Grants and Revenue Options - Complete grant application process and send to state GCDE AC Committee for consideration.
- vi) Downtown Accessibility Study of Parking Options and Sidewalks Walkways with Alfresco Outside Dining -
- vii) National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) - October - Postpone until next year 2022.

Public Comment

Time was provided for public comment. There was none.

For the Good of the Order

No comments.

**Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021
6:30-8 pm**

Next Meeting Date - Next meeting will be held on Wed., October 20, 2021, from 6:30 to 8 pm using the ZOOM platform since Covid 19 cases are on the rise in Walla Walla and Columbia Counties. THIS IS A DATE CHANGE FROM Thurs., Oct. 21, 2021, so that Angie Peters, General Manager of Valley Transit, can give us an update on Walla Walal County ADA Transition Plan. As soon as it is safe for our members, we will resume in person meetings at Son Bridge. We will notify members of this change when it occurs. Until then, we will utilize only ZOOM meetings. Connie's October plans have been changed so she will be present for the October meeting. The remaining meetings dates are as follows: [Meeting Dates ACAC 2021](#)

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.