

Walla Walla County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2021
6:30-8 pm

Members Present: Joshua Hepler End, Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer, Cynthia Wolski, Connie Taylor-Randall

Excused Absence: Aniko Kuschatka, Amelia Odeen

Unexcused Absence: Aracelli Castro, Emma Kubrock, Kati Tureman, Dwayne Williams

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.

May Minutes [May 20, 2021 Minutes](#)

Due to a lack of quorum, the approval of the minutes was tabled until the August 19, 2021 meeting.

Guest Presentation: Valley Transit ADA Transition Plan - Angie Peters, General Manager Valley Transit

Connie introduced Angie Peters, new General Manager of the Valley Transit. She gave an overview of the 15 year project. She indicated that Valley Transit would be looking to replace or enhance any bus stop not meeting ADA compliance and enhance current stops with various necessary footprints. She indicated that she would be collaborating with city/county officials and working with them. She discussed that Bryant Street would be in the plan in the year of 2030. She discussed the four different types of stops. She explained the scope of the work which included ben alterations, concrete slab pouring and removing and/or

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relocating stops. She discussed the importance of the project, the 1993 Transition Plan Requirements, the number of impacted riders, the sales tax implementation, and the COA recommendations. She provided information on how the project can be successful and showed pictures of future improvements. She also indicated that currently the law in the City of Walla Walla allows for parking in bus stops which can cause some issues with ridership. She encouraged members to take a ride on the buses which are free for the summer until Labor Day. She indicated that July is a really good time to catch a ride. The committee thanked her for her thorough presentation. The presentation will be sent to those of you who missed the meeting through email. She encouraged the membership to complete this online survey no later than June 30, 2021.

[Here is a link to an online survey, as well as a PDF if anyone in the group would want to fill out \(or have a client fill out\) a physical copy instead.](#)

<https://forms.gle/dviK3sngmBuzaAkt5>

Sub-Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: Connie

Annual Review of By-Laws - May 20, 2021 [DRAFT By-Laws - WWCACAC 4-2021](#)

Final Approval - Due to lack of quorum, the by-laws approval was tabled until August 10, 2021.

Membership Committee: Connie

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Member Recruitment and Application Process

Two people have applied for membership on the committee. One is a reapplication for a current member and the other is a new potential member. Two current members have not reapplied. Connie has contacted Diane Erickson, Peter Swant, Mateo Caballero, Maggie Caballero, Betsy Leija, and Christina Fletcher for possible membership in the committee. Connie encouraged every member to contact at least five (5) people they might know who could be potential committee members. The membership information and application is on the website. Applications are due by June 30, 2021.

Terms of Office [Terms of Office Status 2019-2023](#)

Members who are interested in reapplying: Araceli Castro, Emma Kubrock, Connie Taylor-Randall

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 - If you are interested in being the vice chair or secretary for a two year term, please let the chair know. Due to lack of quorum, this was tabled until the August 19, 2021 meeting.

Community Outreach Committee: Due to the Kati's absence, no report was provided.

Grant Proposal Committee: Amy/Emma - Due to Amy and Emma's absence, no report was provided. However, Connie has been in touch with Amy and will be setting a meeting with her and Emma on the grant process. There have been new guidelines provided by the state Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment with an August deadline for new grant applications. Connie received a request from Peter T. Erb of the Walla Walla Sunrise Rotary regarding funding needs for the Vista Terrace Park playground update. Connie

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indicated she had forwarded this information onto Amy and Emma for their perusal. In addition, she sent Mr. Erb the grant forms.

Communications/Media Committee: Andrea had no report.

Transportation Update: Andrea had no report.

Columbia County Joint ACAC Update - Cindy indicated that she had sent information out to Virginia Schmidt at Columbia County regarding membership applications. She is collaborating with her on this. To date, we have no applications.

Walla Walla/Columbia Counties ACAC Annual Report 2021 - May 24, 2021 - 11:30 am - Walla Walla County Commissioners WebEx Meeting [WWCACAC Annual Report 2021 Presentation](#) - Connie indicated that the presentation to the Walla Walla Board of Commissioners was well received. All commissioners expressed their thanks to the committee for their volunteer efforts and work to improve opportunities for our disabled community members. The Letter of Assurance for both Walla Walla and Columbia Counties have been approved by each respective Board of Commissioners and these letters along with the membership list has been forwarded to Elaine Stefowanwitz at the state Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment for final approval.

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

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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 Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Please let the chair know if you are interested.

2) **Accessibility Report Update** - Connie
a) City of Walla Walla - Josh indicated that he is still concerned about the sidewalk area across the street from the Court House. He is still awaiting hearing back from Adam at the city regarding the walk about. The committee suggested that Josh contact Adam and the custodian at the Court House about concerns that they may be changing the accessible parking location.

b) Walla Walla United States Postal Service - No update

c) Walla Walla Public Schools - No update

d) Elections - No update

3) **New Leadership at Walla Walla County Department of Health** - Nancy Wenzel and Dr. Daniel Kaminsky, MD - No contact since last meeting - It was announced that Kara from the Walla Walla County Department of Health might be a good contact for our committee.

Announcements and Further Discussion Items

1) Update on Valdemar Estates Winery - Anikó provided an excellent in-depth report on her visit to the winery. She provided a well written guide for them which the chair will send under separate cover for perusal.

2) Request for Grant Funding - Peter Erb - Walla Walla Sunshine Rotary Club - The chair received a request for grant funding which was referred to the sub committee chairs, Amy White and Emma Kubrock.

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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
 - i) Inclusion Stickers - This was tabled until the next meeting.
- c) Housing - Need new ad hoc chair
- d) City of Walla Walla Next Steps
 - i) WWACAC member to serve on Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee Issue - The committee asked Josh to follow through with Nabel Shawa and Adam. Connie will forward the appropriate email addresses.
 - 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 - This still needs to be done. If anyone is interested, please let the chair know.
 - vi) Downtown Accessibility Study of Parking Options and Sidewalks Walkways with Alfresco Outside Dining - Nabel emailed the Connie and invited her and Josh to continue to be apart of the improvements to proposed plaza at First and Main Streets.

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- vii) National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) - October - Discussion on this was tabled until the August 19, 2021 meeting.

Public Comment

Time was provided for public comment. There was none.

For the Good of the Order

It was announced that Stacy Estes, Assistant Principal at Walla Walla High School, agreed to serve on the DD committee. A special thanks to him for being involved.

Next Meeting Date - No meeting in July - Next Meeting will be at SonBridge on August 19, 2021. Cindy agreed to contact Son Bridge to make arrangements. A Zoom format will also be available for those needing this accommodation. [Meeting Dates ACAC 2021](#)

Adjournment