

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

Members Present: Joshua Hepler End, Larry Hector, Kati Tureman, Jeanne Walter, Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer, Amelia Odeen, Cynthia Wolski, Connie Taylor-Randall

Excused Absence: Aniko Kuschatka

Unexcused Absence: Aracelli Castro, Amy White, 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.

Connie welcomed and introduced the new committee members recently appointed for a three year term by the Walla Walla and Columbia County Boards of Commissioners. They are Larry Hector from Walla Walla County and Jeanne Walter from Columbia County. Connie also announced that Aracelli Castro and Connie Taylor-Randall were reappointed by the Walla Walla County Commissioners. Connie Taylor-Randall was reappointed chair.

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

June Minutes [June 10, 2021 Meeting](#)

It was moved and second to approve the May and June minutes as presented. There was no discussion. Motion passed.

Sub-Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: Connie

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

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Connie asked if the committee members had enough time to view and By-Law changes. After some discussion, it was agreed to move ahead to vote on approving the by-laws. Connie indicated that most changes were in name only except for minor changes in the number of committee members and officers. It was moved and seconded to accept the by-laws as presented. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Membership Committee: Connie

Member Recruitment and Application Process

Larry Hector from Walla Walla and Jeanne Walter from Columbia County were approved by the Walla Walla County and Columbia County Board of Commissioners respectively. Aracelli Castro and Connie Taylor-Randall were reappointed for a second term by the Walla Walla County Commissioners. Connie Taylor-Randall was reappointed chair by the Walla Walla County Commissioners. Connie announced that Emma Kubrock has decided not to reapply.

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.

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

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 indicated that he would be interested in the vice chair position and Jeanne Walter said she would be willing to serve on the grant committee. If you are interested in being the secretary for a two year term, please let the chair know.

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Community Outreach Committee: Kati indicated that she didn't have anything new to report.

Grant Proposal Committee: Amy - Due to Amy's absence, no report was provided. However, Connie will touch base with Amy to discuss the new grant process and deadlines as outlined by the state Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment with new deadlines for new grant applications. Connie indicated that a request from Peter T. Erb of the Walla Walla Sunrise Rotary regarding funding needs for the Vista Terrace Park playground update and Jolene Ferguson from the Walla Walla Presbyterian Church for accessibility ramping. Connie indicated she had forwarded this information onto Amy for her perusal. In addition, she sent Mr. Erb and Ms. Ferguson the grant forms. Additionally, she announced that since Emma did not reapply for members that an additional person was needed to serve on the grant committee. Jeanne Walter offered to serve. 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.

Communications/Media Committee: Andrea had no report.

Transportation Update: Andrea gave an update on the roundabout indicating that the work had been completed on time but that there had been supply issues for final completion. Larry Hector asked about how the new roundabout provided for ADA accessibility. Andrea gave an explanation of funding and how the contractor had gone above and beyond the minimal ADA expectations adding signals and sounds for the visually and hearing impaired. However, these signals have been delayed due to supply issues.

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State GCCE ACAC Committee Meeting in July - Due to Connie being on vacation, Cindy Wolski and Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer attended in her absence. Cindy explained that our Walla Walla/Columbia County was recognized as the first joint ACAC in the state. Yeah US! In addition, she said that they just gave an overview of what ACACs look like. There was a powerpoint that the state indicated that they would send out. Connie indicated that she had received it and would send it on to the committee members.

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
- 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.
- 2) **Accessibility Report Update** - Connie
 - a) City of Walla Walla - Josh indicated that he had not received any correspondence from the City of Walla Walla.
 - b) Walla Walla United States Postal Service - Connie indicated that she had heard that the postmaster Justin Good has relocated and that there is a new postmaster. Connie will follow up to find out who this is so we can continue to pursue accessibility issues at the post office.

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c) Walla Walla Public Schools - Kati indicated that the school district had responded positively to feedback to improve accessibility during school construction. She was going to touch base with Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith before school started to see if there is anything else that needed to be done that we could assist with.

d) Elections - Amelia Odeen has taken a new position in Spokane and will be leaving Walla Walla. The committee thanked for her service and wished her well in her new endeavors. She suggested that David Valient would be interested in serving and would get his contact information to the chair.

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.

Announcements and Further Discussion Items

1) Update on Valdemar Estates Winery - Anikó provided no update.

2) Request for Grant Funding - Peter Erb - Walla Walla Sunshine Rotary Club and Jolene Ferguson - Walla Walla Presbyterian Church - The chair received the requests for grant funding, has provided forms, and forwarded the information to the sub committee chair, Amy White. The 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

In addition, the state is updating the proposal paperwork and will email it to us when it is ready. In the meantime, it is fine to submit proposals on the previous proposal forms.

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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 - Cindy gave an update on the Unity Committee indicating that there has been a loss of two employment providers during the Covid shutdown and turnover of key members which has affected the Unity Team. They plan to resume meetings in September. There has been some discussion about changing/updating the logo and community information resources. Connie shared the old logo and proposed new logo with the committee which was provided by Cindy.
- c) Housing - Need new ad hoc 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 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.

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- 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 - 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 but no new information has been received since the June meeting.
- vii) National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) - October - Are we interested in doing anything at the local level?

Public Comment

Time was provided for public comment. There was none.

For the Good of the Order

Connie Taylor-Randall asked about processes for assisting those who need extra help. Josh provided information on contacting Aging and Long Term Care Social Workers and Jeanne suggested contacting Carina Care.

Next Meeting Date - Next Meeting will be held on September 16, 2021, using the ZOOM platform since Covid 19 cases are on the rise in Walla Walla and Columbia Counties. As soon as 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 resume only ZOOM meetings. Connie will be out of town in October and November. The remaining meetings dates are as follows: [Meeting Dates ACAC 2021](#)

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