

**Walla Walla/Columbia County
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes for October/November
November 17, 2021
5:30-7 pm**

PLEASE NOTE: I have included links to documents. You will have to make a copy of them when you begin to open them so you can view them. If you have any issues, please let me know.

Welcome

Connie called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced new members approved by the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners: Tim Barrett and Angie Peters

Attendance

Present: Timothy Barrett, Larry Hector, Angie Peters, Connie Taylor-Randall, Jeanne Walter, Cynthia Wolski

Excused Absence: Aracelli Castro, Joshua Hepler, Aniko Kuschatka, Kati Tureman

Unexcused Absence: Joseph Huether

Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes for the August and September meetings as provided. Minutes approved.

Guest Presentation - Angie Peters - General Manager of Valley Transit - ADA Transition Plan Update

Angie Peters provided an updated on the approved ADA Transition Plan for Valley Transit. She indicated that it was a living document and would be revised as needed as the plan progressed. She discussed how the plan will replace or enhance bus stops to meet ADA compliance requirements and improve rampage at the Valley Transit building entrance. She explained the project importance, change team, and seven year timeline. She said the plans call for seeking easements for the work. She announced that there are 200 stops on the bus system, 26 benches, and

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31 concrete locations. She also let the committee know that the new map will unlist the 41 flag stops and that 11 of those had been converted to permanent stops. This will make it easier to locate stops on maps and other information. She said that they will still be collaborating with people who need flag stops and should be contacted if that is needed. The project success will improve system accessibility, provide forward thinking leadership, provide base plans for future capital projects, allow for successful future compliance review, and improve the agency reputation in the community. She asked if Aniko Kuschatka would be interested in assisting with signage and providing necessary feedback. Connie indicated she would put them in touch with each other.

Sub-Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: Connie

[WWCACAC Bylaws Revised 8-19-2021](#)

Membership Committee: Connie

Terms of Office [Terms of Office](#)

New Members - Timothy Barrett - 4 year term & Angie Peters - 3 year term - The Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners appointed Timothy Barrett and Angie Peters through Resolution 21 212 on October 4, 2021, and Resolution 21 232 on November 1, 2021, respectively.

Member Recruitment and Application Process - Connie indicated that we need to continue to recruit members for the committee which represent all disabilities for compliance with bylaws and state. She indicated that Betsy Hadden had recently submitted an application.

Officers - It was moved and seconded to elect Larry Hector for a two-year term as vice chair. Motion carried. The committee is still in need of a secretary. Please consider this service and let Connie know if you are interested.

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Community Outreach Committee: Kati - Kati was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict. She asked the chair to report that there had been some issues at the high school regarding accessibility for the medically fragile students due to construction. She and the Executive Director of the Walla Walla Valley Disabilities Network along with parents had met with the school district and contractors to address the issues.

Grant Proposal Committee: Connie, Jeanne, and Joe

Jeanne reported on the collaborative work of the grant committee. The grant presentation is attached. The deadline for the two grants the committee put forth to the state was met; however to this date, we have not received word on whether or not they had been approved.

Deadline: Fall, 2021 - Proposal to State 10-20-21 at 4:30 pm - [GCDE Grants Presentation 10-20-21](#)

Update on Grant Denials for Need of More Information - Jeanne indicated that The Ark Day School needed to provide more information about how they were serving children with disabilities and update their website to be more inclusionary. This has been done and they have resubmitted the request. Connie will be reconvening the grant committee to discuss the revised application. Jeanne indicated that the Walla Walla Sunrise Rotary had received additional funding which met their needs and withdrew the application. This project received enough donations and support to be completed. The grant at the Walla Walla Presbyterian Church was put on hold due to issues with the ownership of the property stated in the grant application.

Communications/Media Committee: Need chair

Transportation Update: Timothy Barrett gave the following report:

- College Place's ADA Transition Plan is in progress. A project prioritization rubric has been developed using community input as well as assistance from the City of College Place, the Walla Walla Valley MPO, and the Blue Zones Project.

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- The City of Walla Walla has been working on pedestrian safety improvements at six different locations. These will improve both pedestrian safety and access.
- The Walla Walla Valley MPO is getting ready to reform the Human Services Transportation Coalition. This committee helped provide input on the last Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan in 2017 and 2018. This is basically a public transportation plan that looks to identify gaps in service and potential “low-hanging fruit” projects that can improve transit services and access for all. Please reach out to me if you like to be a part of this committee and I will get you more details soon!

Goals - Connie reviewed committee 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** - Need Ad Hoc Committee Chair - There was a brief discussion about affordable housing being available, but not being really affordable. There were questions about what type of housing being built in the Old K-Mart location. Some committees thought it was supposed to be affordable. Legislative Meet and Greet will be held on

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Tuesday, November 30th at 6:00 p.m. (via zoom). Main topic will be affordable housing. More information and registration at www.vdn.org

2) Accessibility Report Update - Connie

a) City of Walla Walla - Josh - Adam Klein, Civil Engineer I from the City of Walla Walla sent Josh and Connie an email stating that the City of Walla Walla currently has at least one opening on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and encouraged Josh to reapply. Connie will follow up with Josh.

b) Walla Walla United States Postal Service - Connie has not followed up with new postmaster as yet.

c) Walla Walla Public Schools - Kati - Connie gave report for Kati who was unable to attend saying that issues are still present with contractor making accommodations during construction.

d) Elections - David - No report since David was not present.

**Walla Walla County Department of Health Report and DD Report -
Cindy - Cindy Wolski gave the following report:**

Thanksgiving week: no Covid-19 vaccination clinic at Southgate, Covid-19 testing will be available every day but Thursday (flyer attached).

Website for Covid-19 information: covidwwc.com

Website will get a make-over next week to ease access to data and information.

Held Covid-19 vaccination clinics at all County school districts.

Approval received to re-fund (2022) VRS cooking and craft classes and WWVDN website and Better Together (training/social activities) with Ad Valorem funds. This will be the third year that these programs have been active in our community, supported by County funding.

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Training (remote via zoom) for employment and community inclusion providers: December 1 & 2 Job Development and Marketing. January 26 (plus individual workshop with each provider of this service) Community Inclusion.

Legislative Meet and Greet will be held on Tuesday, November 30th at 6:00 p.m. (via zoom). Main topic will be affordable housing. More information and registration at www.vdn.org

Announcements and Further Discussion Items

- 1) Update on Valdemar Estates Winery - Anikó - She is still collaborating with Valdemar Estates Winery, but is awaiting moving forward with training of employees. She offered for this to be something that she could do for other businesses if interested.
- 2) Blue Zones Project Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Checklist - Zidane Galant-LaPorte - Angie Peters offered to be our representative on this committee. Thanks Angie!
- 3) College Place ADA Transition Plan Committee - Emily Brown - Tim Barrett offered to be our representative on this committee. Thanks Tim!
- 4) Supporting new possible Asotin/Garfield County ACAC Eric Boggan EBoggan@co.asotin.wa.us Connie indicated that she reached out to Eric regarding the possible formation of a new committee, but did not hear back from him.

Moving Forward - What are our next steps?

- a) Membership Recruitment and Application for Members Whose Terms Have Expired
- b) Employment
 - i) Inclusion Stickers
- c) Housing - Need new ad hoc chair
- d) City of Walla Walla Next Steps

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- i) WWACAC member to serve on Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee Issue
- ii) Develop checklist for Downtown Alfresco Accessibility for Policy Development
- iii) Develop pamphlet and materials on Accessibility for Building Permit Office
- iv) Partner with Developmental Disabilities in Inclusion Stickers and Informational Pamphlets for Walla Walla Businesses
- v) Possible Grants and Revenue Options
- vi) Downtown Accessibility Study of Parking Options and Sidewalks Walkways with Alfresco Outside Dining

Public Comment - None

For the Good of the Order - None

Next Meeting Date - According to the Zoom form survey, the best meeting dates were Wednesday from 5:30 to 7 pm. Therefore moving forward, we will meet on this date. Connie will be sending out a new meeting date schedule for 2022. [Meeting Dates ACAC 2021](#)

THE NEXT MEETING DATE WILL BE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, FROM 5:30 TO 7 PM. IT WILL BE A ZOOM MEETING! PLEASE MAKE A CHANGE ON YOUR CALENDAR. CONNIE WILL SEND OUT A ZOOM INVITE.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned by 6:30 pm.

NOTE:

Angie Peters sent this email out after our meeting to update us on current information that came to her attention.

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I learned about S.642 (Air Carrier Access Amendments Act of 2021). Which would be an amazing win for people with accessibility challenges of any kind. You can learn more about it [here](#).

Additionally, a friend of mine gave me a link a ready-to-go email you can send to your legislators (built by the Paralyzed Veterans of America) to emphasize your support for this if you would like to do so. Here is the [link for that](#).

If for some reason the hyperlinks do not work:

Information on the bill:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/642/text>

Letter to legislators:

<https://www.votervoice.net/PVA/Campaigns/81519/Respond?vvsn=BAAAAEE0ACv5TADI7JZ7FBA>

Connie forgot to report that Betsy Hadden has an Accessible Walla Walla website and a business that focuses on accessibility options in Walla Walla. She can be reached at info@accessiblewallawalla.com

Tim Barrett had this follow up about the need for volunteers for the Walla Walla Valley MPO/SRTPO to participate in the Human Services Transportation Coalition.

The Walla Walla Valley MPO/SRTPO is seeking volunteers to participate in the **Human Services Transportation Coalition (HSTC)** to help develop the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP) 2022. The plan will study the ins and outs of the regional public transportation services and their future needs for the next four years. It will help identify the public transportation gaps, new services, improvements to existing services, funding needs, transit access

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improvements, transit priority projects, and will help encourage cost-effective services throughout the region.

What will this Coalition do?

The Coalition will help select the consultant and steer the planning process. Additionally, the Coalition will meet bi-monthly and as needed until the plan is completed. The anticipated date of completion is October/November 2022, including a public review period.

Who can sign up?

We're looking for various stakeholders and public group representatives to participate. We would like to seek local and state agency representatives, a representative from public and non-profit agencies, and anyone who can provide valuable input to the public transportation decision-making for the region. Anyone who can represent underserved and minority groups or groups with special transit needs is encouraged as well.

To sign up, please respond to this email with your interest by 5 PM on Monday, November 29th.