



Minutes
Benton County Accessible Community Advisory Committee (ACAC)
Wednesday, January 16, 2019

The meeting of the Benton County Accessible Community Advisory Committee was held at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at the Benton County Justice Center. Present at the meeting were committee members Brenda Chilton (County Auditor), Shyanne Faulconer (Commissioners' Office), Kyle Bosley, Teresa Payne, and Matt Nash, Jennifer Harper and Gabriela Corona. Also, in attendance was Amanda Hatfield and Taylor Raschko from the Benton County Auditor's Office.

Brenda started the meeting by asking that everyone make sure to sign in, introductions were made and the first item on the agenda was addressed. Matt addressed the first topic and gave an update as to the status of the situation with Benton Franklin Transit. He had mentioned that he went to the board meeting for the transit on Monday. The transit board had mentioned that they were going to extend the Dial a ride and night services to 10pm starting March 11th. The transit board is also going to be putting out an RFP to private businesses to try to fill the gap that Tri-City Cab left. There may be a possibility of piecing together a Lyft/Uber type service but due to the federal requirements needed to implement that it is a work in progress.

Matt mentioned that the transit is doing a Van-me-down program selling surplus vans to non-profit organizations for \$250.00. We saw that as a great opportunity for Boys & Girls Clubs, and other groups to take advantage of.

Teresa mentioned that she has been going to the Benton Franklin Transit Board meetings since Tri-City Cab went out of service. She is doubtful of them being able to find another cab service. She also mentioned how Commissioner Small encouraged the transit to try to find a solution sooner rather than later.

Jennifer mentioned how she has been working with the senior management of Benton Franklin Transit through Energy Northwest and stated that BFT is taking things seriously and really working hard for a solution.

The next agenda item was touching on services/discounts available for elderly & disabled citizens. Matt mentioned some of the services that he was aware of such as property tax discount through Benton County, PUD discounts, waste management assistance, city services, etc. It was also mentioned that 211 had a lot of information. Amanda will contact 211 and start to compile a list of services and contact people for distribution possibly to the Senior Times, Tri-City Herald and bring to the next meeting.

--	--

Brenda and Shyanne mentioned that there may be grant money available to do some outreach.

Amanda and Shyanne agreed that they would work with compiling information regarding grants and what monies are out there for uses like the ACAC and create a slideshow for our next meeting. Spokane and Cowlitz County have done great things and would reach out to them as well and bring a slideshow to the next meeting.

Brenda had asked Shyanne if there might be a better presence for the Accessibility's website on the County's website instead of it being part of Bentonelections.com. Shyanne said she would look to see if there would be a spot where it wasn't hidden on the County's website. Speaking of the website Matt mentioned how important it is that websites are ADA compliant. Amanda will reach out to Stuart Holmes from the Secretary of State's office and see what the requirements are and see if there is someone local who might be willing to speak at a meeting. This could lead to us helping other organizations become compliant for their websites.

The next agenda item was the Code Enforcement topic that was brought up at the last meeting. Brenda asked Matt to elaborate on the item he brought up at the last meeting. It was discussed that the Committee would come up with a set of guidelines for how to handle issues that come up in the community. Possibly reaching out to the Cities and finding out what all their Code Enforcement office covers.

Jennifer had questions regarding if the committee was specifically for elections or if other departments were covered. Brenda and Shyanne explained that the ACAC was a merge of the old Disability Advisory Committee that was specifically for Elections and the Accessibility Accessory Advisory Committee that the County has. Shyanne explained that the Statutes lay out all the rules for the committee.

The next topic was when our next meeting would be held. The committee agreed that meetings would be held once a month on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 3:30 at the Commissioners Executive Conference Room at the Justice Center. The next meeting will be on February 20, 2019 at 3:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm