



Minutes
Benton County Accessible Community Advisory Committee (ACAC)
Wednesday, February 20, 2019

The meeting of the Benton County Accessible Community Advisory Committee was held at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, at the Benton County Justice Center. Present at the meeting were committee members Brenda Chilton (County Auditor), Shyanne Palmus (Commissioners' Office), Toni Ball, Matt Nash, Jennifer Harper. Also, in attendance was Amanda Hatfield and Taylor Raschko from the Benton County Auditor's Office.

Introductions were made to introduce Toni to everyone and give her a background on what we do outside of the committee.

The committee touched base again on the situation with Ben Franklin Transit. It appears they have an on-demand program up and going but committee members were unsure of the scope of it. Jennifer shared that they did do the grant program last month of the surplus vehicles. Non-profit organizations can now rent vans for \$.58 a mile. Matt shared some general information about the on-demand program. The on-demand program is available to reserve a spot for routes outside of the normal bus routes. Monday through Friday 6am-6pm with last pick up being at 7:30 pm and Saturday from 7am-7pm with last pickup being at 6:30 pm. The routes are stop to stop not door to door for this service and reservations must be made up to 7 days in advance.

The topic of our recent "Snowmageddon" came up and how some of the cities have made sidewalks inaccessible for anyone to get to. The discussion was mentioned that we should talk with communities that get lots of snow all the time and see what they do for elderly and disabled citizens to get around during those times. It was also mentioned that non-profits might be a good resource for that as well.

Amanda and Shyanne shared about the resource guide and grant and funding information that is available for ACAC committees. Amanda will e-mail out the slides and resource guide that was created. Members should feel free to e-mail any additions to Amanda that you would like added. Brenda mentioned that we should contact the County Assessor and see if there is an electronic version of the Property Tax Exemption form to have on their website for accessibility needs. Shyanne explained to the group that to apply for projects proposals must be submitted through the Governor's Committee. For 2019 there is \$200,000 available for committees.

Brenda and Toni mentioned how we could expand on the resource guide. Toni mentioned a radio ad or commercial possibly in the future. Shyanne mentioned with the grant money available we could

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hire a firm to create some social media video. Toni liked the idea of hiring an artist with disabilities to do the creating.

Brenda mentioned with Toni that for our next meeting everyone should brainstorm and bring some goals to the next meeting and really start to focus on what projects we want to start focusing on.

Jennifer had to leave the meeting early but wanted to point out that HB 1782 may potentially have some changes made to it during this legislative session. This bill pertains to open public meetings. Brenda mentioned to her that before the committee started meeting we met with our PA and went over what all we needed to cover in order to be in compliance. We treat these meetings as if they were open public meetings already but that we would keep tabs on the bill and see where it ends up.

Items for our next meeting will be....

- Monitor the transit situation
- Putting together some kind of outreach program-elaborate on the resource guide we have now
- Outline goals for the committee as well as for projects we want to start

1st project potentially being the outreach program. Get our name out there.

It was determined that our next meeting would be a little longer to get ideas out there. It will be Wednesday, March 21, 2019 from 3:00 to 4:30pm at the Commissioners Executive Conference Room at the Justice Center. Committee members are encouraged to start sending lists of goals to Amanda ahead of time, so we can get a list started prior to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25pm