



Minutes
Benton County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC)
Wednesday, October 16, 2019

The meeting of the Benton County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee was held at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at the Benton County Justice Center. Present at the meeting were committee members Brenda Chilton-Chair (County Auditor), Matt Nash-Vice-Chair, Shyanne Faulconer (Commissioners' Office), Kyle Bosley, Teresa Payne, and Jason Erickson (Sheriff's Office). Also, in attendance was Deidra Beck.

Brenda began the meeting by expressing appreciation for the members' patience with the unfortunate delay and cancellation of previous meetings due to some personal issues and constraints that prevented her capability to attend. Because of the low number of meetings in the first year, she explained that the board of Commissioners passed a resolution to re-align the terms of office so that members due to expire would be extended to a year and a half, and others would be extended to expire on December 31st moving forward. Per the resolution, the expiration of rotating terms is set to begin December 31st of 2020. She was appreciative of all that were in attendance and established that this would be a 'refresher meeting'.

After making sure all attendees had signed in, introductions were made and Jason Erickson, our newest member, was welcomed to the committee. He is from the Benton County Sheriff's office where he serves as Community Liaison. Brenda introduced Deidra Beck, returning to the committee. She will be assuming the role as the committee Coordinator. Amanda Hatfield will be entangled with the upcoming Presidential Primary and Presidential elections in the ensuing year, and Deidra had expressed an interest in returning and assisting in that capacity.

It was determined that there was a quorum of members present and that formal action by the committee could take place.

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The first item on the agenda was to view the Attorney General’s Open Public Meetings Act Training Video as mandated by law. After viewing, Brenda explained that because we are not a governing body, we do not have to comply 100% with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act. However, we will abide by the requirements as much as possible, and that because any action that we may vote on must go before the Commissioners’ board, such would cover our compliance.

The second agenda item, Electing a new Chair and Vice-Chair, was brought to the floor. Brenda stated that she was happy to stay on since there was really only a short time remaining. Matt offered that, if someone else was interested, he would be happy to let his position as Vice-Chair go. He also presented the option to wait and reach out to the members not in attendance for their consideration. He suggested that we wait until our next meeting and then elect these positions. Brenda concluded that we would maintain status quo until then.

The next item on the agenda was to review the committee’s current plan. Brenda reminded the group that the decision of the committee was that as we developed as a group, we would consider and deal with projects as we go along. She stated that she reviewed the plan, felt that it was good, and that after the committee workshop, enhancements could be added to it.

Matt asked whether or not Franklin County had an ACAC. Shyanne informed us that Franklin’s committee was only in the capacity of the ADA committee requirements related to Elections. Understanding that Matt was asking whether or not we could combine ACAC’s with Franklin County, Brenda explained that such was allowed among two counties under the threshold of population. Because Benton County is too large to combine with Franklin County, this would not be possible. However, we could meet with them and even partner with them in projects that would involve both counties’ interests. Matt suggested that perhaps we could attend one of their meetings and present some issues that we see within our shared three cities for future projects to work together on. Matt pointed out that it would be beneficial to each because of the possibility of shared

funding aid. Brenda agreed stating that sometimes Benton County would have resources that Franklin County may not have, and visa-versa, and that at times it can be a great benefit to work collaboratively. Matt stated that he was aware that the City of Richland has an ADA Committee, and perhaps this committee could collaborate with them as well.

Matt moved that we re-adopt the current committee plan pending the workshop, and then it could be decided whether or not to re-work it according to new ideas brought forth. Shyanne seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a majority favorable vote.

Brenda addressed the primary discussion item of the upcoming workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to roundtable the committee's mission and identify what issues and projects we wanted to focus on. She promised to send out the list of ideas collected primarily by Toni. At the workshop, boxed lunches would be provided while the committee would kick-back and white board suggestions brought forward for three hours or so. We would look to identify needs seen by each member such as children development needs, or the needs of differing age groups such as senior citizens. Perhaps we could visit the need of sidewalk accessibility improvement or the development of the committee's own website. We will outline a 3-5 year plan of projects and narrow down on those that we think are most important. We can then focus on a few to start on. It was agreed by consensus that the best time would be from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Discussion of the best dates narrowed on perhaps November 21st, 2019, as the target date. It was decided that Deidra would reach out to the entire group to learn the best date for all; if needed she will send out a Doodle Poll.

As the last item on the agenda, the committee discussed what the best regular meeting dates should be since the current choice of the third Wednesday of the month doesn't seem to be workable to most members. It was agreed that there would be no November regular meeting because of the planned workshop. By consensus, the third Thursday seemed to be the best choice. Deidra will reach out to all members to see if this would be a better choice or problematic for most.

Brenda called for any New Business items. Matt presented that the Three Rivers Coliseum was having a concert event in April that he was hopeful to attend. However, by experience, he is aware that their wheel chair accommodations are limited to about a dozen spaces and not on the ground floor. He shared that their rationale is that wheel chairs take up too much room for safety considerations. Matt questions whether that is compliant to ADA requirements. He knows this has been an ongoing problem and is sure they have not been complying with the law for a long time. Matt suggested that we review ADA guidelines, and Brenda stated that after committee review, perhaps we could send them a letter regarding the issue. Deidra will collect information regarding this problem and bring it our next meeting to share. Then, the committee can then decide what action they feel they should take.

After no other New Business items were brought forward, Matt moved that we adjourn the meeting; Jason seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.