

**Walla Walla/Columbia County  
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
At **SonBridge** on June 15, 2022  
5:30-7:00**

**Welcome** - The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. The in-person meeting was held at [SonBridge](#) temporarily this month along with the Zoom meeting as follows: **Zoom Login Information:**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84339084288?pwd=eWN4bmk2dVBQUy9DSWVINS85VEV1QT09> **Meeting ID: 843 3908 4288 Passcode: 569353**

There will be no meeting in July. The next scheduled meeting is August 17, 2022, from 5:30-7 pm at the Valley Transit Board Room. Connie asked if any special requests were needed for accommodations. None were necessary.

**Present:** Timothy Barrett, Angie Peters, Connie Taylor-Randall, Jeanne Walter, Amy Osterman (representative Walla Walla County Department of Health)

**Excused Absence:** Anikó Kuschatka, Larry Hector, Joseph Huether

**Unexcused Absence:** Kati Tureman, Aracelli Castro, Joshua Hepler-End

**Minutes Approval from [April](#), [May](#), and June Meeting** - did not have a quorum (4 voting members) at the last meeting, so we have three months of minutes to review for approval

**Sub-Committee Reports** - *Due to the length of the meeting, please send any reports in writing to committee members prior to the meeting, please ensure your report is sent to the secretary for comprehensive inclusion in the minutes.*

**Membership Committee:** Connie - continued outreach for additional members

**Community Outreach Committee:** Kati - we need to create an event checklist for accessibility (workgroup?)

**Grant Proposal Committee:** Connie, Jeanne, and Joe - Office grant was not approved, the Rack Card grant was approved, we were encouraged to apply again on the bike grant in the fall

**Communications/Media Committee:** Connie (open position) - we need to define our call to action better when we communicate with other groups and look into possible social media options, Union-Bulletin, and other places (workgroup?)

**Transportation Update:** Timothy Barrett

## 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

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- 1) **Employment Report Update**- unknown
- 2) **Housing Report Update** - Tim gave an update on housing. He provided information about manufactured home parks, increase in property taxes, emergency rental assistance, homeless grants, land trust for people with disabilities. It was suggested that we contact Rachel Elfenbein for more information.
- 3) **Accessibility Report Update** - Larry indicated that he was going to contact the Walla Walla County Commissioners regarding rules for using social media and how we might have other options to communication with the public. Anikó and Connie met to discuss options for checklist and concerns about roundabouts. Betsy indicated that she is working on obtaining non-profit status for Accessible Walla Walla.
- 4) **Care options Report Update** - (needs chair)

**Walla Walla County Department of Health Report** - Amy Osterman - Amy joined the group to get an update on the Walla Walla County Department of Health in regards to supporting people with disabilities. She has also been appointed temporarily to provide information and support our committee. She mentioned that Cynthia Wolski had taken a job with ESD123 and Nikke Sharp was working as Mental Health Therapist so they are no longer working for the WWCHD.

**Walla Walla/Columbia County Developmental Disabilities Program** - Unknown

**Announcements and Further Discussion Items**

- 1) Annual Report to County Commissioners 6/13/22 at 9:45 at [Commissioner Chambers](#) - Connie reviewed the annual report given to County Commissioners. There has been a response from the Commissioners that they need to approve the bylaws and complete other necessary contracts for our committee. More information will follow.
- 2) Report to City Council during a [work session](#) on 6/6/2022 - Connie indicated that the leadership team of Larry Hector, Angie Peters and herself had a very positive work session with the City Council providing information about our committee and what we can do to advise and support the city of projects related to improvements for those with disabilities in relation to our four goals. The City Council members were very receptive to our suggestions and are willing to partner with us as we move forward to meet our goals.

**Moving Forward** - What are our next steps?

- a) Membership Recruitment and Application for Members Whose Terms Have Expired - We need to continue to recruit members,
- b) Employment - no report
  - i) Inclusion Stickers - discuss the future of this project
- c) Housing
- d) City of Walla Walla Next Steps
  - i) WWACAC member to serve on City Committees
  - ii) Develop a checklists

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- iii) Develop pamphlet and materials on Accessibility for Building Permit Office
- iv) Partner with Developmental Disabilities for employment
- v) Possible Grants and Revenue Options

**Public Comment** - None

**For the Good of the Order** - None

**Next Meeting Date** - (no meeting in July) Valley Transit on August 17, 2022. A Zoom format will also be available for those needing this accommodation. [Meeting Dates ACAC 2022](#)

**Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.