

**Walla Walla/Columbia County  
Accessible Communities Advisory Committee  
Zoom Meeting Minutes for October/November  
December 15, 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 5:30 pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced our new member approved by the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners: Betsy Hadden

**Attendance**

**Present:** Timothy Barrett, Angie Peters, Connie Taylor-Randall, Jeanne Walter, Betsy Hadden, Connie Taylor-Randall

**Excused Absence:** Larry Hector, Joseph Huether, Aniko Kuschatka, Cindy Wolski

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

**Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes for the October/November joint meeting as provided. [October/November Minutes](#) approved. (Click on link and make a copy.)

**Guest Presentation** - There was no guest presentation.

**Sub-Committee Reports**

**By-Laws Committee:** Connie

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

**Membership Committee:** Connie

**Terms of Office** [Terms of Office](#)

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**New Members** - Betsy Hadden - 4 year term - The Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners appointed Betsy Hadden through Resolution 21 256 on December 6, 2021.

**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.

**Officers** - The committee is still in need of a secretary. Please consider this service and let Connie know if you are interested. Connie indicated that she would be meeting with Larry Hector, vice chairman in January to provide more detailed information about the committee and the role of vice chair.

**Community Outreach Committee:** Kati - No report available.

**Grant Proposal Committee:** Connie, Jeanne, and Joe

Jeanne reported that both grants were not selected for funding at the state level. Connie indicated that she had asked for clarification on what grants were funded and what the rubrics were for making the decisions. Response from GCDE Accessible Communities Grant Committee is as follows: [Accessible Bicycles](#) and [Mobile Office](#) (Click on links and make a copy.)

Connie also received information on the [Criteria and Dates for Next Round of Spring Grants](#) (Click on link and make a copy.)

**Update on Local Grant Requests** - Jeanne indicated that the grant committee met to discuss the revised application from the Ark Day School. The committee elected to not move forward with the application because it lacked data as to the number of disabled students served overtime, the number of students currently being served, and how this playground would be able to make a difference when other options like Wildwood Park and Vista Terrace Park have accessible playgrounds.

**Communications/Media Committee:** Need chair

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[Transportation Update](#): Timothy Barrett (Click on link and make a copy.)

**Goals** - Connie reviewed committee goals. She asked the committee if they would be interested in doing a work party in January to focus on goals and develop materials for information listed under the **Moving Forward** information at the bottom section of these minutes. After some discussion, it was decided to meet in person at Son Bridge for the January 19, 2022 meeting for the purpose of developing some products around our 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 - No report.
- 2) **Accessibility Report Update** - Connie
  - a) City of Walla Walla - Josh - No report available. However, committee members discussed the accessibility issues re: the 1st St. Plaza and what the City of Walla Walla and City Manager is planning to do. Particular discussion topics included: accessible parking at the end of the street, an accessible restroom in the vicinity, and the walkabout which occurred with our committee, the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network, and City personnel and engineers. Betsy indicated that she was planning on talking with businesses to gain support for the accessible parking due to

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the loss of several spaces on Main Street. Connie offered to partner with her. Betsy indicated that she understood that the City of Walla Walla was planning on moving forward mid-January.

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

c) Walla Walla Public Schools - Kati - No report available.

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

[Walla Walla County Department of Health Report and DD Report](#) - Cindy (Click on link and make a copy.)

**Announcements and Further Discussion Items**

1) [Update on Valdemar Estates Winery](#) - Anikó (Click on link and make a copy.)

2) Blue Zones Project Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Checklist - Zidane Galant-LaPorte - Angie Peters - No report.

3) College Place ADA Transition Plan Committee - Emily Brown - Tim Barrett - No report.

**Moving Forward** - What are our next steps? - These items will be discussed during the work session planned for January 19, 2022

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

i) WWACAC member to serve on Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee Issue

ii) Develop checklist for Downtown Alfresco Accessibility for Policy Development

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- 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. However, it was discussed that some people are having difficulty with these dates so we may need to revisit dates in the near future. [Meeting Dates - 2022](#)

**THE NEXT MEETING DATE WILL BE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, FROM 5:30 TO 7 PM. IT WILL BE AN IN PERSON AND ZOOM MEETING! MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED. PARTICIPANTS WILL NEED TO SIT AT LEAST THREE FEET APART TO ACCOMMODATE OUR MEMBERS. CONNIE WILL SEND OUT A ZOOM INVITE AS WELL FOR THOSE WHO WOULD PREFER TO PARTICIPATE USING THAT PLATFORM.**

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

**NOTE:**

Betsy Hadden provided the following information after the meeting:  
Here is the link to the recent accessible tourism

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/economic-impact-of-disability-tavel-reaches-58-7-billion-301162417.html>

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Here is the conference I spoke of. I am working on securing funding for the sponsorship. I think it would be great for our Community,

TBEX (Travel Bloggers Exchange) is North America's largest professional conference for travel bloggers, influencers and non-traditional media content creators. TBEX represents the future of travel media.

300+ attendees, hungry for adventure and for something to write about after months of lockdown, will gather in region in April of 2022. TBEXers tend to represent specialized, niche markets, which translates to very dedicated followers looking for specific types of travel. A limited number of the top-tier VIP attendees will have the opportunity to apply for post-conference tours to travel experiences throughout the state.

"Familiarization tours," aka "FAMS", aka "press tours" offer a first-hand exploration of place and generate tens of thousands of dollars worth of media coverage for a destinations. The FAM hosts will select their guests from the applicants who have applied to their destination. Of the 10 FAMS currently scheduled, only two are ADA accessible with limited capacity and limitations. At the same time, TBEX regularly sees a number of attendees who specifically write about ADA-accessible travel.

TBEX will target and solicit specific ADA-accessible travel influencers on our behalf. As it happens, Patti said she would do the research right now in advance of any commitment from us. TBEX would be excited to have this market segment, and will work to make it successful. We can pull the sponsorship if nobody of interest applies.

The sponsorship also gives you access to everyone at the conference and one free registration. Like anything of this type, the more you participate,

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the better the outcome. Marketing directors who have attended this conference have said it was extremely good.

Fresh Marketing and Events  
Betsy Hadden – Founder  
509-629-1503

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