

Thurston County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC)

August 29, 2022

Auditors Office:

Diana Benson
Tillie Naputi-Pullar
Lynnette Milton
Jamey Davidsmeyer
Carisa Owens

Members

John Doan – Tumwater City Administrator
Craig Chance – Housing Authority
Robin Campbell – Assistant County Manager
Holly Paxson – Library manager Lacey Timberland
Jo’el Roth – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Jennifer Walker – Public Works

Recap

Many counties have taken the VAAC and transformed into an ACAC and we are expanding on our ACAC focusing on projects and priorities in moving from voting accessibility to community accessibility.

Accessible Voting Plan approval

Accessible voting plan has been approved via writing by former VAAC members who were not able to attend today's meeting. This plan must be approved annually by the ACAC (RCW 29A.04.223).

No questions/comment

Voting on ACAC plan

Diana Benson – approved

Tillie – approved

Sending a copy of the plan to Jo’el.

-Approved by Members in absentia

Draft Charter Discussion

ACAC Charter development

Adopted by the BOCC in Jan 2022.

Seeking co-sponsors to help with projects. Thoughts or nominations for co-sponsors.

Jennifer – How was the 2022 ACAC adopted?

Lynette – Brought to BoCC to expand this program to encompass more than voting. For example, another county was able to purchase wheelchairs people could use to make the beach accessible.

Jennifer – was the charter adopted through resolution or ordinance?

DB – A letter was sent to the gov allowing the county to adopt the ACAC to allow us to invite more members to participate. Not through ordinance. The framework presented in the charter will serve as a guide.

Draft Charter

Committee purpose/motivation

Wanting members from different departments and divisions to help the ACAC achieve more.

Jennifer – Is the idea that we would list out new members or would membership be more fluid.

Lynette – May need specific names or have a primary/backup from each division.

DB – want to go through some of the specifics so people know what is being discussed, what we are trying to accomplish, and future meetings.

Jo’el - DVR is a part of the dept of Health and Human Services. My specialty is accommodation. Works in Division 3 which encompasses the Olympic Peninsula to Vancouver.

Robin – Would be helpful to go over objectives. Can help to inform who in the county would participate.

Lynnette – Forum objectives from draft.

Jennifer – Maybe we could have some more specificity, the RCWs lay out specific activities.

Lynnette – we can take the language out of the RCW’s to add to the ACAC objectives.

DB – Those guidelines were in the original letter drafted by Commissioner Mejia and we can add them back into the draft.

No comments on the objectives

Activities and Outputs

Meet as a group 3-4 times a year and could add more when there are ongoing projects.

Feb, May, and Sept identified as possible months for meetings

Current resources – BoCC assurances letter to Gov office, Accessible voting plan, Membership base made up of former VAAC members.

DB - does anyone have any concerns on these placeholder items?

Jo’el - Under continuously inform office and dept officials about accessibility issues – what happens to those concerns?

DB – We would be gathering any feedback/concerns form group and escalate items based on the issue presented. These items will be discussed in this forum. Communications person has a comms group and

will be presenting this information to them. Are you talking about ideas for projects to brainstorm or about a specific issue?

Jo'el - Just about bringing concerns about things seen in the community forward.

Robin – Anything that the Advisory committee sends to county departments get taken into consideration by the BoCC with no promise of action.

Jennifer – Gives us an opportunity to look at areas in a more systemic way that will allow us to identify opportunities, small or large, and give a forum to have those discussions and receive communication from community members that are impacted.

Membership

Deadline to let us know if you want to opt out of being a member is Sept 15 to help us move forward with future meetings.

We are working on a possibility of creating an application to help with membership duties.

Future Meeting Dates

Dates for 2023

Feb, May and Sept

Jennifer will be present or will send someone in her absence. Jo'el and Craig agree.

Lynnette – will be sending some future dates.

Jennifer – A sentence from the draft to “make a more accessible community for all” seems to be the vision of the ACAC and should be highlighted.

Jamey will work on adding some of these suggestions into the charter and then send it out to the committee for further input before finalizing the charter.

DB - is there something specific that is on a wish list as to why interested in being a member of this group?

Craig – With the example with the wheelchairs earlier, is this a group that has the connections to create/find funding/resources to be able to make changes and make the community more accessible?

Holly – agrees with Craig, at the library tends to support organizations to create awareness of where people can go to get resources. Tend to work towards how to get information to people and being a place where people can gather.

Robin – having something that formally reports the work on the group would be beneficial.

Jennifer – Would we be doing agendas and meeting notes/minutes?

DB – Yes, and will need a content library, such as SharePoint, where all can see group content.

Thank you all for joining.