

Accessible Communities Advisory Committee

April 15, 2019

Minutes

- **Welcome & Introductions**

-Present: Kirk Kennedy, David Wilder, Steve Reed, Peter Chipalla, Andrea Poolman, Brianna Steere, Sylvia Cooper, Alex Hatcher-Schoenbachler, Hans Kahl, Vickie Fontaine, Lou Touchette, Mel Pedrosa, Sandy Perkins, Julie de Losada

- Absent: Astrid Aamot, Julie Bishop, Katherine Hall

- **Letter of Assurance-Julie de Losada**

Julie shared an introduction on the ACAC work at the county level. The current work includes parity and consistency between the Letter of Assurance, Resolution, and Charter for the committee. Some specific areas of concern is the involvement of County staff as a facilitator but not as a voting member, governance, streamlining the application process for appointment of new members, clear roles and responsibilities, and the terms of appointment clarified.

- **Accessible playgrounds presentation & discussion-Andrea Poolman**

Andrea shared on the importance and need for Inclusive Playgrounds for children with disabilities, as well as shared information and pictures of Inclusive Playgrounds around the state. Andrea has attended multiple Parks & Recreation community forums and Skagit Parent 2 Parent to begin the conversation on the needs of the community for this option of playgrounds. Andrea shared the need for community education and awareness on this issue. In the cities that have accomplished an Inclusive Playground project, these communities have come together through awareness and education to service groups (Kiwans, Rotary), municipalities, county governments, etc.

- Comments

- school playgrounds are equally important to assess
- Importance of accessible ≠ inclusive
- Parents and families with disabilities are important to consider

- Next Steps:

- ✓ Possible sub-committee
- ✓ Local collaboration

- **Emergency Management discussion-Hans Kahl**

Hans shared the work of the Department of Emergency Management, which included revision of the Emergency preparedness plan. Hans communicated the need for input from all communities to ensure considerations are being met for inclusivity. This plan will include an annex, which will be a living document to enable up-to-date information at any time. Some important attributes if this plan includes:

- Community collaborations as an asset (faith-based organizations, service groups, clubs, etc.)
- Proactive in problem-solving
- Identifying needs/solutions

- Next Steps:

- ✓ Input and feedback on the current draft
- ✓ Collaboration on the annex
- ✓ Possible sub-committee

- **Status and Direction of Committee-Kirk Kennedy**

- Kirk shared on the powers and duties of the committee within the county, as established in the Resolution pursuant to RCW 36.01.310 which includes advising in the needs of persons with disabilities.
- Chair and Vice Chair positions are needed to be filled, Kirk will work with Brianna to define the roles and responsibilities of these positions and present to the committee later in the month. They will ask the committee for any interested parties via email and present the candidates at the next meeting for a vote.
- Kirk asked for a discussion on outreach to other communities to establish a city/town-specific group to represent each communities at the larger county meeting
 - Brianna shared the draft of the Invitation for community-specific groups for feedback
 - Suggestion was to present this to Skagit Valley College to open the age range of participants
 - Sandy suggested presenting to the Skagit Council of Governments Board meeting to share the needs and projects of this group. Mel will reach out to the Executive Director to schedule a date
 - To invite the municipalities to the next Board meeting for education and awareness of this group
 - Suggested a commercial presence on the committee, such as Chambers of Commerce, local businesses, etc.
 - Northwest ESD 189 should be included in outreach

- **Subcommittees-Kirk Kennedy**

It was shared a piece of this committee's position is to suggest projects to the state for grant funding. Kirk shared an example of an appropriate project the Anacortes sub-committee has recently started and asked if this committee could support this project moving forward.

- The group unanimously agrees, Kirk will begin the project proposal project and present it for final submission at the next board meeting

-Next steps

- Architectural sub-committee, who volunteered: Peter Chipalla