

# Anacortes ACAC Sub-committee Meeting Minutes

06/26/2018

3:00pm

Anacortes Senior Activity Center

Great Room

Meeting Attendees					
	Core Members		Consultants		Stakeholders
X	Andy Arvidson	X	Sandy Perkins	X	Doug Erlandson
X	Colette Arvidson	X	Coni Carrothers	X	Clara Hamel
X	Donna Erlandson		Gunnar Christiansen	X	Lin Folsom
X	Eric Johnson		Joann Stewart	X	Ronda Dupea
X	Jerry Olmstead		Keiko McCracken	X	Donna Pitcher
X	Joanna Olmstead	X	Sally Hill		
X	Kirk Kennedy		Nancy Novak		
X	Paul Denham				
X	Sylvia Cooper				

## Purpose

Improve the quality of life for people with disabilities (PWD)

## Discussion Elements

1. **Introductions**-Who are you and why are you interest in this meeting?
  - a. The meeting was well attended and represented by parents of children with disabilities, Skagit Transit, Kiwanis Aktion Club, Skagit County Access for the Blind, Dogs on Call, Senior Center, Skagit County Auditors, Hearing Loss Association, Implants Support Group (hearing), Lions Club, Public Health Nurse, City Council and City Employees.
  - b. There are other groups that are included but were unable to attend this meeting such as DSHS, Chamber of Commerce, Chinook, City Engineering and Planning.
2. **Purpose of today's meeting** - This meeting was held to encourage citizens and service groups to be aware and participate in the Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC) and go over why it exists. Also, to encourage participation in the program by giving examples of what can be improved to help PWD and coordinate efforts to suggest, research and stay connected with the requests and updates to the program.
3. **Accessible Communities Act Premise** – The ACAC act was promoted by the WA Legislature to help communities be more welcoming and inclusive for PWD and to promote and provide equal access to the opportunities available to others.
  - a. Living with a disability is an exercise in problem solving, requires planning every activity and constant prioritization to identify barriers and develop solutions.
  - b. Challenges are faced daily that able bodied people don't even recognize.
  - c. As a result, good intentions without input from people with disabilities can result in ineffective solutions or even create greater barriers.
  - d. “Nothing about us, without us”, coined phrase by the Governor’s Committee, sums up the ACAC. Who better to discuss the needs of people with disabilities than those with disabilities.
  - e. The ACAC brings the disabled community to the table.
4. **Governor’s Directive** – Accessible Communities Act and the Accessible Communities Advisory Committee it fostered.

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- a. Supports people with disabilities.
  - b. Brings together the disabled community, local governments, businesses and organizations.
  - c. Promoted greater awareness and accessibility and offers support for effective solutions and partnerships.
5. **ACAC Available Resources** – The state provides resources for counties to promote better disability awareness and access for people who have disabilities.
- a. Reimbursement to enhance participation in ACAC meeting by people with disabilities is available.
  - b. Grant program to fund small local projects benefiting people with disabilities.
  - c. Website to share best practices among ACAC committees throughout the state.
  - d. A searchable database of accessible features for local businesses and other public accommodations, sharing “lessons learned” from others in serving people with disabilities.
6. **ACAC Promotes Collaboration between:**
- a. Local Government
  - b. People with Disabilities
  - c. Local Organizations
  - d. Businesses
7. **Proposed Skagit County ACAC:**
- a. The ACAC Steering Committee will oversee all of the subcommittees.
  - b. The Subcommittee will be established for each community; Anacortes will be the pilot program for Skagit County. Cities to establish subcommittees as desired are Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley and Rural Skagit.
  - c. Subcommittees will be added over time, build on successes.
8. **ACAC Steering Committee**
- a. The Steering committee will have membership that includes representatives from the County’s Audit and Public Health Department, plus members from each subcommittee.
  - b. The primary purpose of the steering committee will be to manage the grant request process from point of request to disbursement and reporting of any funds awarded.
  - c. The composition of the steering committee will support coordination of activities across the subcommittees; however the steering committee’s primary purpose is to manage ACAC grant process.
9. **Sub Committee Membership**
- a. Core members – are recruited to fill specific roles, will include persons with a diverse range of disabilities, oversee committee operation and meet at least once per quarter.
  - b. Consultants - are subject-matter experts, providing input on issues as they arise, and attend meetings as needed.

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- c. Stakeholders – are individuals interested in following ACAC subcommittee activities, will receive subcommittee correspondence, are welcome to attend meetings and contribute to discussions as well as the general public.
- d. Champion – is a City official (elected or staff) who will champion the subcommittee, providing oversight and assurance subcommittee is aligned with City goals.

## 10. Listing of current members:

### Core Members (tentative)

Name:	Role:	Qualifications/Represents
Eric Johnson	Champion-City Council	Change agent
Kirk Kennedy	Co-leader	Diagnosed w/MS- <u>powerwc</u> user, doesn't drive
Sylvia Cooper	Co-leader (COA)	Committee Administrator
Joanna Olmstead	Hearing Impaired	RN, Skagit Hearing Loss Assoc., Hearing Loop Advocate-Skagit
Jerry Olmstead	Cochlear Implant, deafness	Pres. Skagit Hearing Loss Assoc., Hearing Loop Advocate-Skagit
Paul Denham	Mobility challenged	Wheelchair user, Skagit Transit user
Colette Arvidson	Visually impaired-advocate	VP Anacortes Lions Club, Dogs-On-Call Pet Therapy
Andy Arvidson	Visually Impaired-Blind	Pres. Skagit/Island Counsel of the Blind, BOD Guide Dog Users
Ed Gegan	Dev. Disability Advocate	Parent of Kiwanis <u>Aktion</u> Club member
Donna Erlandson	Dev. Disability Advocate	Parent of Kiwanis <u>Aktion</u> Club member

### Consultants (tentative)

Name:	Role:	Qualifications/Represents
Gunnar Christiansen	COA-Public Works	Streets, sidewalks, curb cuts
Joann Stewart	COA-Building & Permit Dept.	Building Dept.
Keiko <u>McCraken</u>	ASD 103	ASD Community Engagement Coordinator
Brad <u>Wandler</u>	Skagit Transit Auth.	Service Development Planner
Sally Hill	Anacortes Senior Activity Ctr.	Center Coordinator
Nancy Novak	Skagit County Health Dept.	Developmental Disabilities Program Coordinator
Sandy Perkins	Skagit County Auditor's Office	Chief Deputy Auditor

## 11. Wrap-up

The meeting was well attended and information was received with enthusiasm and anticipation of helping our community.

Some of the comments and projects that came out of the meeting are:

1. Add a representative from the Housing Authority
2. Is there an ordinance on low hanging planters and sandwich boards in front of businesses that may be an obstacle to someone who is blind.
3. Add a representative from the police department and the fire department.
4. Mark Bus Zones as no parking zones so clients waiting for a bus will not be missed due to vehicle blocking both the visual and physical aspect of the bus stop.
5. Early October – Navigating the Future Senior Fair - have an information table.
6. August 7<sup>th</sup> – National Night Out – Have a booth there.
7. South Fidalgo Road – Continue to work on a schedule that will work for both Skagit Transit and the South Fidalgo Road community.
8. Educate the public on pedestrian right of ways.
9. Skagit County Public Health Department – Confirm contact.

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## 12. What's Next

- a. Meeting July 3<sup>rd</sup> with Skagit Board of Commissioners
- b. Receive approval for ACAC formation
- c. Hold first ACAC Committee Meeting July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 – 3:00 Senior Center
- d. Future Committee Meetings will be held quarterly (July, Oct, Jan, April) on the last Tuesday of the month, additional meetings will be held if needed. All Core Members, Consultants and Stake holders will be informed of added meetings.

Note, specific projects are not added to the action items list at this time. Pending approval of formation.

## *Action Items*

Date	Description	Who	Status
6/27/18	See if there is an ordinance on low hanging planters or placement of sandwich boards	Eric Johnson	Pending
6/27/18	Set up standing meeting at Senior Center for the last Tuesday of each month for meeting	Sally Hill	Done
6/27/18	Listing of projects	Sylvia Cooper	Pending
6/27/18	Possibly man booth at events	TBD	Pending