



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT**

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**Accessible Communities (AC) Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2023, 4:30-5:30 pm**

**1. AC Subcommittee Member Roll Call:**

**Warren Weissman, Chair; Clarence Eskridge, Vice-Chair; Cullynn Foxlee, and Autumn Harris.**

**Staff: Elizabeth Gordon, GCDE Executive Director and Elaine Stefanowicz, Program Coordinator**

**Absent: Lucy Barefoot, Dave Carl, Damiana Harper, GCDE Chair, Steve Lewis, and Angie West.**

**2. Approval of October Meeting Minutes. No changes or corrections. Minutes approved as written.**

**3. Review of current AC financial report. Elaine reported that there have been no changes since last month's financial report. Warren noted that based on the accumulated expenses and grants obligated in prior years and that have carried over to the current fiscal year, there is approximately \$62,000 available to award for grants during FY 2023/24.**

**4. Warren and Elaine attended the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) meeting. Warren sent a letter (signed by Damiana and himself) to the BoCC and County Administrator explaining why the AC Subcommittee thought it**

**was appropriate to approve the Trinity United Methodist Church grant, despite potential concerns related to funding accessibility at a faith-based institution. The letter was not to advocate for that particular grant but to create an approval path for future grants where similar concerns may arise in relation to providing funding for accessibility projects at a faith-based institution.**

**5. Comments on Thurston County election center visit. Elizabeth, Warren, and Elaine toured the Thurston County Ballot Processing Center with Auditor Mary Hall. It was a great visit, and they learned a lot.**

**6. Initial review of Fall grants.**

**a. Kitsap County:**

**(1) Sea Discover Center is an aquarium and discovery center within Kitsap County. Their \$20,000 grant request is to install electronic door openers at the main entrance to the facility. This includes the door installation and electronic work. The center has a significant number of attendees, including seniors and people with disabilities.**

**(2) Kitsap ACAC Outreach. The Kitsap ACAC participates in job fairs and public meetings to create awareness of disability issues. The \$1,852 grant request is to pay for entrance fees, SWAG, brochures, and transportation costs. This is similar to previous awareness campaigns, and we can possibly invite other counties to do something similar.**

**b. Jefferson County:**

**(1) Key City Public Theater. The theater seats 77 people. The grant request addresses accessibility for**

**people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, and Blind or low vision. The theater serves approximately 15,000 patrons per year and equipment will expand their audience.**

**The grant was originally \$10,000 but this was the bare minimum of equipment they actually need. Warren suggested to the theater manager that she request more funds to get the additional equipment that is needed to meet expected demand. The theater submitted a revised grant for \$13,375.**

**Project Proposal Presentations are scheduled for Wednesday, November 29 at 4:00 pm. Subcommittee members are asked to send questions to Warren and Elaine. Questions can also be asked during the presentations.**

**Elaine will send a follow-up email to members who couldn't be at the meeting to ensure they read the proposals and attend the presentations.**

**At the next All-County meeting we could push for counties to submit proposals.**

**Clarence asked how we advertise to counties for project proposals. Elaine sends out multiple reminders of proposal deadlines. Clarence asked if we invite ACAC leadership to join AC subcommittee meetings. Warren said our meetings are open to the public, but we could make a point to invite them to attend.**

**c. AC Presentations: November 29 at 4:30 pm.**

**Next AC Subcommittee Meeting:**

**December 20, 2023, at 4:30 pm**