



STATE OF WASHINGTON

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT

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**Accessible Communities (AC) Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2023, 4:30-5:30 pm**

1. AC Subcommittee Member Roll Call:

Warren Weissman, Chair; Lucy Barefoot, Dave Carl, Cullynn Foxlee, Damiana Harper, GCDE Chair; Autumn Harris, Steve Lewis.

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

Absent: Clarence Eskridge, Vice-Chair; and Angie West.

- 2. Approval of September Meeting Minutes. No changes or corrections. Minutes approved as written.**
- 3. Review of current AC financial report. Elaine said there were no changes since last month's financial report.**
- 4. Status of approved grants with pending contracts or other issues delaying implementation. Elaine said there were no status changes since the last meeting.**
- 5. Comments on status of grant approved for Trinity United Methodist Church (Jefferson County). When we approved this grant, we discussed "separation of church and state" and talked about making ADA improvements because the site is**

used for other community events. A citizen spoke up during the public comment period of the Jefferson County Commissioner meeting saying that it was illegal to use funds for a church. The County Commissioners decided to put a hold on the contract for further analysis. Trinity Church decided to withdraw the grant.

With approval from Damiana and Elizabeth, Warren prepared a letter to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners. The letter was not to advocate for the grant but to clarify our reasoning if similar grants are considered in the future. Warren and Elaine will attend the Jefferson County Board of Commissioner's meeting on Monday, October 23rd. We want them to know that we look at how broad the community impact is and accessibility modifications that do not support religion.

- 6. Comments on Thurston County election center visit. November 9th is the tour date at either 3 or 4 pm. The invitation was extended to all GCDE members. If interested, let Elaine know.**
- 7. Timetable for Fall grants. Oct 31st is the deadline for grants. Kitsap Co. asked if they could use Reasonable Accommodation funds for outreach purposes. Warren and Elaine are going to meet with them to clarify. If it is outreach, they can submit it as a grant proposal.**
- 8. All-County meeting: The meeting will be delayed until next year (in the spring) so the new chair to introduce themselves and decide the meeting agenda.**

**Next AC Subcommittee Meeting:
November 15, 2023, at 4:30 pm**