

# WHATCOM COUNTY - AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

## MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023; 1:00-2:00PM

Location: Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

### Committee Members Present:

Rebecca Xczar, County Assessor

Mark Challender

John Radwanski

### ADA Coordinator and County Representatives:

Karen Hemmett, ADA Coordinator, HR Rep

Julie Smith, HR Office Coordinator

Daniel Goger, Special Projects Manager, Facilities

Gabel Bredy, Safety and Training Coordinator

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### 1. Welcome, roll call, meeting instructions (Karen Hemmett)

### 2. Whatcom County Facilities report / Elevator update

#### Elevator Update

- During a previous meeting, Mark Challender asked for updates regarding the rotunda elevator repair.
- Karen Hemmett - brought the topic to the Executive's Office and received the following recommendations:
  - Add additional signage at the rotunda entrance so people don't come all the way in and are then redirected to the south entrance. Karen would like recommendations from the committee for signage language.
  - Update expectations on the website for anyone looking to come to the courthouse. This will need to be clear as to where they can park and how they can access the building.
  - Executive's Office will review the prioritization of the elevator replacement.
- Daniel Goger - Facilities is still securing funds for the elevator program. There are other older elevators that have a higher priority right now. There is a place holder for the new rotunda elevator replacement in 2026.
- Mark Challender - Three years ago the Executive's Office had said they didn't want to replace the elevator as it was new. However, when it was installed someone decided to not include the front foot ramp. They closed it with a gate. That is what prohibits some from being able to use the elevator. There needs to be an accessible entrance and exit at both ends of the building. He feels it needs to be reprioritized sooner than 2026.
  - Daniel Goger - It was initially replaced in an existing location with only a certain amount of space. An upgraded elevator would require the actual space to be widened.
  - Mark Challender – When speaking with Facilities Manager, Rob Ney, he was told the ramp was removed initially because the existing elevator had

required the interlocking gate to be closed for the elevator to operate. The only thing needed is for the gate to be extended to allow the ramp installation.

- Mark Challender - Concerned with the lack of ADA compliant parking spaces near the South entrance. If someone needs to park at the North entrance, they will need to travel outside to the South entrance to enter. This can cause obstacles, specifically with weather.
- Daniel Goger – Whatcom County is still in compliance as of now, but still planning to replace the elevator according to the current schedule.
- Karen Hemmett – Has a commitment from the Executive’s Office to review the current prioritization and will take Marks responses to them. Asked if a solution would be additional parking near the South entrance.
- Mark Challender - Yes, this would help with access as currently there are not enough spaces. It’s reasonable to make it easier to access the South entrance.
- Karen – we will continue with the conversation with the Executive’s Office to bring resolution
- Mark Challender – Willing to meet with them as well if needed.
- Karen Hemmett – Shared her screen to show where additional signage could be displayed around the courthouse. Asked for suggestions from the committee.
  - Mark Challender – If you are adding signage to direct to the South entrance, more parking spaces will need to be available.
  - Rebecca Xczar – Ensure the signs are at a readable height and scale
  - Mark Challender – Be specific regarding what type of access is available at the North side of the building.
- Karen Hemmett – Will share the conversation regarding the elevator with the Executive’s Office. Will work on the additional signage prototypes and will email them to the committee for review and feedback.

**3. Public comment period:** None

**4. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 6th 2023

**5. Adjournment:** Meeting ended at 1:33pm