

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 1:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

Committee Members Present:

Paul Glasser

John Radwanski

Rebecca Xczar, County Assessor

ADA Coordinator and County Representatives:

Karen Hemmett, ADA Coordinator, HR Rep

Julie Smith, HR Office Coordinator

Daniel Goger, Special Projects Manager, WC Facilities

Gabel Bredy, Safety and Training Coordinator

1. Welcome, Roll call, meeting instructions (Karen Hemmett)

2. Whatcom County Facilities Report: (Daniel Goger)

- Technicians have completed the ADA compliant push buttons on the bathroom entrances of the 1st, 4th, and 5th floors of the Courthouse.
- Funds were added to the budget for elevator upgrades in 2024
- Work will start in 2024 to place push buttons near courtroom entrances, beginning on the 4th floor.
- Question was asked whether or not there would be push buttons installed for each courthouse office entry. Facilities is working on entrances that are currently out of compliance first. Karen Hemmett will follow up.

3. Review proposed new signage

- Reviewed possible signage ideas to direct persons with larger wheelchairs at the main entrance to instead enter at the South entrance as they won't be able to access the elevator in the atrium due to the size constraints.
- It was suggested to use verbiage such as "over-sized wheelchairs" as standard sized ones would be able to use the elevator.
- The use of graphics on the signs was suggested as opposed to just verbiage
- There was a suggestion to use a large sandwich type sign that could sit further out so someone doesn't need to go all the way to the entrance to see it.
- Karen asked for direct feedback regarding the signs designs and verbiage and will bring the final prototypes to the next ADA meeting.

4. Public comment period (none)

5. Other Business

- Mark Challender's last day on the committee will be December 31, 2023 and Karen wanted to extend her thanks to his service on the committee as well as to all committee members. The Executive's Office has received one applicant thus far for the open seat.

6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 1:00 PM

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:26 PM