

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 1:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

Committee Members Present:

Lyn Salazar

Rebecca Xczar, County Assessor

John Radwanski

Paul Glasser

Barry Buchanan Coordinator

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

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

- Roll call was taken and new Committee Members were announced
- All members present introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of their previous and current interest and involvement with ADA compliance and committee work

2. Whatcom County Facilities Report: (Daniel Goger)

Rotunda Elevator Upgrade Project

- Approval was received from the Executive's Office for a new elevator to be included in the 2025 budget. Facilities is currently working on getting pricing details for the upgrade. Currently, there are some wheelchair models that will not fit into the lift space.
- There have been previous discussions during Committee meetings to add signage to the entrances of the Courthouse, guiding all persons with mobility issues to enter at the South entrance in the case that their wheelchair devices won't fit onto the elevator. Facilities is currently getting prices on the new signage.

Other Facility Updates

- Facilities is working on getting courtroom doors in compliance regarding accessibility issues. There have been some double doors replaced with larger single doors. Currently, electronic strikes are being installed to some of the doors to allow for the installation of door opening operators.

3. **Questions to the Committee** (Karen Hemmett)

- Are there any new issues that have come to light that the Committee can start looking into?
 - (Barry Buchanan) Council agendas state that if there are disability accommodation needs, to contact the Council Office within 96 hours prior to the meeting. Does the ADA Committee see those requests?
 - (Karen Hemmett) Has not seen these requests during her time as ADA Committee chair. Either requests have not been made, or they are not being directed to her. She will look into this.

4. **Public Works Updates** (Gabel Bredy)

- The grades of the aluminum gangways installed to the passenger ferry during dry dock season are out of ADA compliance. The installation of of these gateways on each side cost \$20,000 yearly and PW stopped installing these during previous years.

More recently, they have begun to install a gangway only on the Lummi Island side of the Ferry where the grade is steeper. Data being collected is determining that the other side may also be out of ADA compliance and there is work being done to ensure gangways are being installed on both sides each year.

5. **Public comment period:** None

6. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 5, 2024 1:00 PM

7. **Adjournment:** Meeting ended at 1:22 pm