

**DASH – Disability Awareness Starts Here (DASH)
Board Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2021**

Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021, Noon to 1:20 p.m., at the Port Townsend Winery.

Attendees: Pat Teal, Nancy Johnson, Nancy Villagran, and Jack McCreary.

Absent: Marion Huxtable, John Frasca, and Miranda Nash.

Treasurer's Report:

On November 1 John Fresca emailed the October 31, 2021, monthly financial report, which reflected a checking account balance of \$5,236.36, and year-to-date expenses of \$838.64.

Kearney/Sims Roundabout Event:

On October 22 DASH and the Jefferson County Council of the Blind conducted a walk across the roundabout at Highway 20 and Rainier to simulate specific issues for people with visual disabilities (specifically addressing the roundabout to be built at Kearney and Sims). Traffic engineers from WSDOT and City of Port Townsend Public Works participated, along with Larry Watkinson, ADA Compliance Manager from WSDOT.

In the summary of the event, issues at the new roundabout were identified, along with possible solutions. Design issues and training needs and possible solutions were also discussed. Specific regulations regarding roundabouts, sidewalks, pedestrian activated signals, channelized turn lanes at roundabouts, and accessible pedestrian signals and pedestrian sidewalk pushbuttons were identified.

Attendees agreed that Marion's summary was very good and helpful.

Among other recommendations, an event attendee recommended spreading out people negotiating the roundabouts to more accurately gauge drivers' reactions.

At the Board meeting, attendees emphasized that officials must identify the specific construction period and how pedestrians can cross the street during that time. They also agreed that tactile edges would be helpful to make people aware of the crosswalk boundaries. Solutions such as lighting would also help to identify the crosswalks.

The group emphasized the need to determine how to most effectively follow up and continue to provide input on this project. WSDOT and City officials emphasized that input must occur during the first 30% of the project planning. Pat and Nancy Villagran will meet with Laura Parsons to determine how to effectively follow up.

It was agreed that when providing input, DASH needs to cite specific regulations relative to DASH's input.

Pat and Nancy Villagran will meet at 2:00 p.m. on November 12 with Steve King and Laura Parsons to address accessibility issues the City of Port Townsend should consider when

designing the sidewalk along Discovery Way. Others are also invited to attend. It was emphasized that DASH's proposed solutions should consider bicyclists' needs.

Pat will follow up with ACAC regarding the need for consistent meeting times. She will pass information about the next meeting to Nancy Villagran and Nancy will send Pat Carl Jarvis' contact information so Pat can invite him to attend.

Recruitment Needs:

Meeting attendees discussed the need to recruit new board members. Pat will talk with The Leader regarding publicity and recruitment. She will also contact Michelle Sandoval to solicit her suggestions. It was suggested that other organizations advocating for people with disabilities (e.g., Disability Rights of Washington, Gathering Place, Hamilton Place) may have recruitment suggestions.

Future Winter Meeting Venues:

Attendees agreed that meeting outside in the cold weather is a problem. Nancy Johnson will follow up regarding using Zoom for cold weather meetings.

Restaurant Guides:

The Board recommended using stickers that Marion has designed to be added to existing restaurant guides that suggest people call restaurants regarding their specific needs. This is to address changes in restaurant's capabilities and operations.

Voting Group:

Nancy Johnson updated attendees on the October 13 Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting. She reported that the Jefferson County League of Women Voters provides accessible voting information on its website. Pat emphasized the need to publicize the accessible voting machines at the courthouse.

Next Meeting: 12:00-2:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 7, 2021, Zoom meeting.