

**Disability Awareness Starts Here (DASH)
January 3, 2023
Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, January 3, 2023, Noon, Zoom.

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

Absent: Marion Huxtable.

Also attending: Tonia Burkett, Margaret Lee, Steve King, Emily Mandelbaum, and Laura Parsons.

Introductions:

Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Additions to the agenda:

Discussion of Port Townsend Quimper Unitarian's request for DASH to assess the church's accessibility.

Update on Discovery Road Modifications:

Laura Parsons, Civil Engineer for the City of Port Townsend's Engineering, updated the board on the history of the Discovery Road project and current progress on the project. The City is ready to submit its plans to WSDOT. When the plans are approved, the City will solicit bids for the project, which is projected to cost \$5.5 million.

Steve King – update on City projects:

Steve King, Public Works Director for the City of Port Townsend, updated the board on the proposed Taylor Street project, including improvements to the road and sidewalk/curb cuts. He reported that the City had received a grant for the project and thanked DASH for its support.

Pat said that the Farmers Market had not received the grant they requested to address accessibility needs. Pat suggested that DASH solicit members of the Key Club to help DASH evaluate accessibility of the Farmers Market. Steve explained the necessity of completing road construction during summer months. He anticipated that improvements will be constructed in 2024 with the plan completed in 2025. Steve and Amanda Milholland, Director of the Farmers Market, will discuss how to keep the Farmers Market open during construction. It may be possible to complete the sidewalks when the market is closed in the winter.

Steve explained the two-step plan to identify and implement ADA improvements to make streets and sidewalks on City rights of way more accessible. Pat reported on input she received about the need to increase accessibility for Hastings. Steve agreed that development needs to occur using a comprehensive, holistic approach instead of a "shotgun" approach. Steve agreed to consult with DASH when planning and developing priorities for the projects.

It was reported that WSDOT is close to beginning the roundabout project at Kearney and Sims, which will be discussed at the January 3 Port Townsend City Council meeting.

Farmer's Market evaluation:

DASH will meet with Amanda Milholland of the Farmers Market to discuss DASH's involvement in evaluating accessibility of the Farmers Market. Pat suggested that members of the Key Club be asked to help with the project. Jack suggested that the DASH board meet in January, prior to the February meeting with Amanda, to discuss parameters of DASH's involvement. Nancy Johnson will contact the Key Club to determine their ability to assist with the project. Pat suggested that Key Club members be given the experience of being blindfolded and using a wheelchair to increase their sensitivity of the challenges that people with disabilities face.

Minutes:

Minutes from the December 6, 2022, meeting unanimously approved. Nancy asked where minutes would be stored since Miranda Nash has resigned from the board. Pat agreed to contact Miranda and about responsibilities for checking the DASH mailbox and maintaining DASH's website.

Treasurer's Report:

Regular Account: \$4,598.28. Emergency Account: \$27.77. No unusual expenses are anticipated during January 2023. The board agreed to accept the report.

DASH emails, phone calls, mail at Chimacum Post Office:

Margaret Lee reported that she no longer needs an answer to a question she submitted to DASH. She reported on difficulties using the City Council's website to find agendas and to connect remotely with City Council meetings. Laura reported that the City is working to resolve this issue.

The Jefferson County Historical Society has requested DASH's assistance in assessing accessibility of its facilities (which the Society has funded). Pat suggested inviting them to a future board meeting.

Pat reported on a phone message regarding shopping issues for people with disabilities.

Getting groceries when you can't shop yourself, end of online shopping and delivery from the Co-op:

The board discussed the Co-op discontinuing its service of selecting and delivering groceries to people with disabilities and attendees shared possible solutions. The board will meet with grocery stores to discuss services available for individuals with disabilities. Jack will contact Safeway to arrange a meeting; Nancy will contact QFC; Nancy Villagran will contact the Co-op; and John will contact Aldrich's.

Kiwanis presentation:

Pat reported that on December 14 she gave a brief presentation to Kiwanis regarding DASH.

QUUF request:

Pat reported on the Port Townsend Quimper Unitarian's desire to seek DASH's help in further evaluating the church's accessibility, particularly regarding its entrances. Emily, John (and potentially Marion) will assess the QUUF facilities to determine how QUUF can improve accessibility. Nancy Johnson will communicate with the Key Club to determine students' availability to help with the project.

Accessibility to Jefferson Healthcare Medical Center:

Margaret reported difficulties accessing Jefferson Healthcare when taking Jefferson Transit buses. Pat explained that DASH had worked extensively with Jefferson Healthcare to ensure accessibility and that the ramp from the bus stop to Jefferson Healthcare was determined to be ADA accessible. She acknowledged difficulties in using the ramp during inclement weather. She pointed out that improvements had been made to improve access to the Waterside entrance and that it may be possible for Jefferson Transit buses to access that entrance.

JUMP Playground:

Pat reported that Sarah Grossman and others are raising \$300,000 for playground equipment at the JUMP playground for 2–5-year-olds with disabilities.

Council for the Blind

Nancy Villagran reported that the Council for the Blind is currently working on its website.

ACAC meeting:

Pat reported that ACAC will meet at 1 pm. on January 23 and she invited board members to attend.

Chamber Cafe

Pat asked how to access information from the Chamber Café, which has previously been available with The Leader.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

NEXT STEPS – FOLLOWUP

Thank you notes to Steve King and Laura Parsons for presentations at January board meeting. Reiterate DASH's willingness to help City if necessary.

Pat:

- Discuss with Marion whether she wishes to be involved in the Farmers Market and QUAF assessments.
- Schedule January special board meeting to discuss parameters and timing of DASH's involvement with Farmers Market project.
- After January board discussion, schedule meeting with Amanda Milholland and the board.
- Contact Miranda confirming her replacement, checking the DASH mailbox, and maintaining DASH's website.
- Invite the Jefferson County Historical Society to a future meeting to discuss assessing their facilities for accessibility.
- Will attend ACAC meeting.

Nancy Johnson:

When details are available, contact Key Club about helping with the Farmers Market project.
When details are available, contact Key Club about helping with the QUUF assessment.

Selecting groceries and grocery delivery for people with disabilities:

Jack - contact Safeway

Nancy Johnson – contact QFC

Nancy Villagran - contact the Co-up

John - contact Aldrich's

Emily, John (and Marion?) - assess QUAF facilities (including communicating with QUUF).

All - let Pat know if we want to attend the ACAC meet on January 23.

All – let Pat know how to access information from the Chamber Café, which was previously available as an insert in The Leader.