

## **Disability Awareness Starts Here (DASH) Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023, Noon, Zoom.

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

**Absent:** Marion Huxtable, Miranda Nash, Sara Peck

### **Additions to the Agenda**

ADA issues, Transportation Advisory Committee.

### **Minutes**

Minutes from the April 4, 2023, meeting were unanimously approved, with a correction that the balance from DASH's regular account should read **\$4,450.26**.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Regular Account: \$4,450.26. Emergency Account: \$27.77. Unanimously approved.

### **Communication Updates**

Sara reported that DASH's mailbox had received a \$500 check from Jefferson County Historical Society and a letter from the United States Postal Service (USPS). Subsequently, she sent USPS's letter to the board.

### **Discussion re: DASH History and Mission**

Pat reviewed DASH's history and mission. The board discussed its current lack of some needed areas of expertise and issues with the board's composition that limit the organization's ability to fulfill its mission. The board discussed how DASH can solicit appropriate volunteers. Pat will coordinate with The Leader to include DASH's meetings and events in the paper's community events calendar.

### **County ADA Coordinator:**

Chris Goy, new Jefferson County new ADA Coordinator, will attend future DASH meetings and will further address DASH's proposal to train County personnel to assess accessibility of various County facilities.

### **Discussion re: Post Office Upgrades**

Sara sent the board an April 6 letter from Lisa M. Williams, Manager of Government Relations Correspondence at USPS, responding to DASH's request that the USPS invest in upgrades to make the Port Townsend Post office accessible. Ms. Williams responded that currently the USPS has no plans to construct a wheelchair ramp at the Port Townsend Post Office. She stated that since USPS has no plans to alter or repair the post office's front steps, it is not required to include a wheelchair ramp.

### **Report re: Farmer's Market Evaluation:**

Jack and Nancy McCreary will evaluate accessibility of Farmers Market vendors on Saturday morning, May 6, and in the afternoon Pat and Nancy J. will evaluate accessibility of other facilities outside the main Market area that serve the Farmers Market (e.g., parking and restrooms). Nancy J. and Jack will compile a formal report, including photos, to submit to the Farmers Market. Organization. Pat reminded participants that Amanda Milholland has requested that DASH participants wear badges or otherwise identify themselves.

**Report re: Connectivity Fair**

Pat, Nancy J. and Nancy V. reported on the Connectivity Fair. Community members indicated high interest, although nobody volunteered to participate in either DASH or Council for the Blind activities.

**Report re: ACAC Meeting**

Pat reported that ACAC had provided funds to Cold Shield Pizza for developing a mental health stigma reduction program. She explained that, if approved, DASH could use ACAC funds to hire Lesa Barnes or another vendor to develop a community program focusing on accessibility and, separately, to develop a communications plan. Pat will discuss the idea with Lesa. The board will decide whether DASH should apply for a grant to analyze and train the board and community members regarding accessibility grant due to current lack with bandwidth of volunteers to do assessments. Pat and Nancy will see if DASH's records include prior evaluations and ACAC grant requests.

**JUMP Playground:**

Pat reported that board members are invited to attend a fundraising event for the second phase of construction at the JUMP playground at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, at HJ Carroll Park.

**Transit Advisory Committee:**

Pat reported that the Transit Advisory Committee meets in a hybrid meeting at 3:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every other month. John expressed an interest in representing DASH on the Committee.

**Quimper Unitarian Universal Foundation (QUUF):**

Pat will conduct an assessment for QUUF and teach the church how to conduct future evaluations.

The meeting concluded at 1:10 pm.

**Next Meeting:** June 6, 2023. Jefferson County's ADA Coordinator, Chris Goy, will be a guest at the meeting.

## **NEXT STEPS – FOLLOWUP**

### **Nancy Johnson, Carol McCreary, Jack McCreary. Pat Teal:**

Conduct and document Farmers Market accessibility evaluation, to be conducted on May 6. Jack and Nancy J will prepare a formal report/evaluation of the Farmers Market, including photos.

### **Pat and Nancy:**

See if there are evaluations and a ACAC grant requests in DASH's records.

### **Pat:**

- Talk with Lesa Barnes' about her ability to develop a community program to teach the board and other interested individuals how to assess facilities for ADA accessibility, along with Lesa's charge to do the cost of the project.
- Conduct an accessibility assessment for QUUF and teach the church how to conduct future evaluations.
- Coordinate with The Leader to include DASH's meetings and events in its event calendar.

### **John:**

Represent DASH on the Transportation Advisory Committee.