
SAN JUAN - ICANN 61 Community Forum
Sunday, March 11, 2018 - 17:00 to 18:00 AST
ICANN61 | San Juan, Puerto Rico

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: We have the Cross Community Committee on accessibility in ICANN meeting. If there is a presentation with the Adobe Room so we can perhaps see any remote participants, that would be a very handy thing, indeed.

I recognize some staff members available here at the moment. Sorry, I didn't bring my card with me, but I'll hold my little Cheryl Langdon Orr up here so you can read my name.

I want to thank, as usual, the time taken here at these ICANN meeting face to face gathers for especially the ICANN staff who come and who usually, traditionally, share with us where they are in terms of making accessibility part of the average thinking, the process, the mental checklist that goes on every single time you're looking at new projects and new opportunities. At this particular time of ICANN's life and budgetary processes, I want to recognize that, of course, we know that tough choices often have to be made. And as tough choices are being made, we'd like to think that at least those of you, if not at this table who have an interest in what goes on, at least up until now, at this table, will be thinking that there is a value proposition in ensuring greater accessibility in the work we do for ICANN, to minimize barriers for participation, whether they are through physical ability, whether they are through bandwidth, whether it is through language, whatever it is. I believe, if I may, and you can indulge me, over the last few years of our meetings, we've come a long way on just raising the awareness. I'm hoping that the audio conference will be set up shortly because I'm expecting, for example, Gunella to probably join us, but if she is unable to join us, she did send a meeting to the a message to the list recently. Heidi, you have some update for me?

>> HEIDI ULLRICH: Yes, Gunella is in the AC room and I believe we are recording.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Welcome, Gunella. We were only able to see the AC room. I was going to read what was sent, but if you could please test your audio, Gunella so we know we have you on the audio bridge. It doesn't appear to be the case. Let's keep trying to get the audio bridge.

I'm also not seeing the CART support I'm not seeing the transcript going up, but it might just be the size of the pod. Perhaps it is. I'm hopeful that it is because I know Judith and others have tried oh,

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

perfect, thank you very much, makes me feel better. They have tried so hard to make sure that's the type of accessibility we have.

Today's agenda and I want to recognize a few other people who have joined, we have Greg, Alfredo, and Daniel. Please, Daniel join us at the table unless you are planning on putting a knife in my back, but it's crowded at the moment. If you could join us, that would be terrific. The purpose of today's meeting a little different than the ones we've held in recent times and I do hope most of you are aware of this because it was advertised in the agenda space for what's going on at today's meeting.

Normally we'd be looking at how work is progressing, where we can assist you as a recourse, which is what we are designed to be as a Cross Community Committee, a resource, matter experts, person who have experience in areas of accessibility. And I know for example Lauren's use of Gunella and other's expertise in the Web Work and some of the other work we have done. Recognizing all of that in history, it has been question now whether or not we have a continued purpose. So I am needing to change the apologies of Allan Greenberg, who is the Chair at the At Large Advisory Committee. Allan is going to join us, if indeed, the committee is that is meeting on the the Cross Community Committee that is meeting on auction funds finishes early and if we're still going, but it is the ALAC and At Large that sponsors these Cross Community Committee. So we don't have a chartering organization. We don't have someone has to pick up the tab for transcripts and staff and, you know, these rooms that we use and that comes under the orifices of ALAC. ALAC has received questions and complaints of the validity of our on going purpose. Greg has said while he has not been terribly actively involved in our regular face to face meetings, if there isn't a continued yes, thank you if there isn't a regular lot of meeting activity, then, indeed, why continue? And I think it is time for us to look at that very carefully.

Before we had, however, taken that further with ALAC, we certainly had a number exchanges on the e mail list where why we were meeting only in face to face was questioned and if we are going to have a continued purpose, we would also be needing to look at how we continue. All right? So this agenda is a little bit different because we're not doing what I would like doing what I think we should be doing, which is reviewing where we are on the work to progress what we all want to do, which is raising the awareness of accessibility. We're not going to be looking at what we could thank you very much what we should be having now at this particular meeting and that's looking at furthering where we are on the second stage of the staff survey. The work Diane had done previously. And where we left that last was having identified from the staff survey that we had quite a low level of awareness and

understanding and thought about accessibility issues. Two or three of our members were identified to work with Diane and come up with a next gen of questions. That hasn't actually proceeded as far as it should for a number of reasons but that is where we should be, we should be picking up and taking that forward, we won't unfortunately won't be doing that today. That is not work that has to be done within the orifices of this committee, but it is something that you could pick up and I suspect Gunella willing agree, and we'll do an audio test with you shortly, Gunella, should continue because that's a very important thing to do the follow up. Has there been an increase?

Now Gunella, I filibustered for a fair amount of time. Can we check that are you able to be heard on the audio bridge, please?

>> GUNELLA ASTBRINK: Hi, Cheryl. Can you hear me?

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Perfectly. It's nice to hear your voice Gunella. With that, there's probably no purpose of doing the normal round robin, around the table, I would ask you when you start an intervention, please do identify yourself and to a very limited extend why you are in this room.

Normally we say what is your interest and commitment in further accessibility, but let's cut it as short as we can. With that, introduce yourselves as each of you do an intervention.

I'm going to open the floor now for the next 10, perhaps 15 minutes, for a no longer than two or three minute maximum for anyone that wants to speak to the continuing fitness and purpose of this Cross Community Committee. Recognizing, please, ladies and gentlemen, we have no control over the continuation or otherwise. The ALAC does. And so all we can do, because this is actually the second meeting on this matter because a couple of members demanded a pre ICANN 61 teleconference and four of them attended, in addition to Allan serving as Chair. I count myself amongst that four, by the way. And so this question has been put once. This is almost a second reading, but it is one we have to go ahead with.

Gunella, seeing you have the disadvantage of being the remote participate, I'd live to give you two to three minutes to do a very quick intro on yourself and say anything you would like to on the question of what sort of advice we should be giving to the At Large Advisory Committee on the continued purpose and work of the Cross Community Committee. Over to you, Gunella.

>> GUNELLA ASTBRINK: Thank you very much, Cheryl. This is Gunella Astbrink for the record. I do need to provide a bit of background. I have been working with the disability field for over 25 years

and joining ICANN a few years ago, I was very excited about the At Large Accessibility Task Force and had a fair bit to do with that coming into play. And, as I sent around the mailing list, I build up some objectives and suggested actions to do.

Now I realize that the At Large Accessibility Task Force has moved to the Cross Community Committee on accessibility and that the foe kiss has probably changed a little bit, but that shouldn't take away from the need for a significant amount of work. ICANN has worked very diligently on making their websites accessible and the survey. And now I do believe, though, that certainly staff can continue the work of the survey and getting an up to date view of where ICANN is in regard to accessibility, but from the initial survey result, it was very clear that there was a lot of work to be done. And if there was a staff member or a champion within ICANN that was focused on accessibility, fantastic. I don't know or think there is such a person and as such then it seems to me that having a Cross Community Committee on accessibility is valuable to work with staff to ensure that ICANN is an accessible organization for everyone. And so I put in a couple of suggestions for work to move forward and that has certainly to do with updating the survey. I noted that there is a new intercultural awareness training happening, which sounds really exciting. And as it so happens, the objectives and actions that I suggested a number of years ago included having a disability awareness tour kit being developed and training to be provided. And it seems that could still be a possibility, though, again, another piece of work to be done, certainly in ICANN Learn to look at accessibility and web accessibility training, and, of course, ensuring that ICANN is accessible to all participants if they have a disability or not. And we're talking about both physical meetings and online. So there are some examples of work to be done where the Cross Community Committee could really help and guide and work with staff to make that happen.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thank you, Gunella, just 30 seconds over the three minute mark. Greg, over to you.

>> GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Greg Shatan for the record. As my interest here is both professional and personal, professionally, I'm a lawyer in private practice, technology and intellectual property lawyer. For about the last five or six years I have been practicing increasingly in the area of web accessibility, assisting companies in learning what their obligations and responsibilities are, helping them to develop good internal business cases and so that they get buy in, helping them find good technology partners to work on this. I originally got into this just doing compliance for companies that wanted to be compliant. In the last two years, the United States has been in a litigation boom and not by

Disability Advocates, but by the Plaintiffs bar who just finds some way they can sue people and make money. Nonetheless, it's a good cause, but literally in New York one way we had ten cases filed, in one day, against different companies insisting they were in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. And there was a class action and that there were all sorts of damages that should be paid and all sorts of things. I won't get into that. Even though I'm defending the companies, my defense is, let's get your website accessible, let's figure out how to do it, why do to it, get the litigation out of the way. And personally, my brother in law has retinitis pigmentosa and he drove once and for many, many years it's a declining disease and now he is virtually completely blind. You know, at the age of 50 plus, he a learning Braille because his ability to read type, you know, finally gave up the ghost and audio books are only so much. But any case, that's why it's personally important to me.

And ICANN should be a shining light in this regard and it isn't and I think a group is needed to shine that light and I think this group is vitally important to be that group, unless and until, as you say, there is a champion within ICANN, and there should be an Accessibility Officer, there should be a web Accessibility Officer, that is increasingly becoming a job description in the U.S. Only a week after MIT and Harvard were sued, Princeton advertised for one.

To make a long story short, I am committed to this committee and I want to see it not just survive, but thrive and drive a culture of accessibility and awareness of accessibility because accessibility and disability tends to be put in the shadows by many and it needs to be brought out and people need to understand why it's so important. And there couldn't be one Internet for everybody, but the disabled and there can't be one ICANN for everyone, but the disabled.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: This is Cheryl Langdon Orr for the records. Do you think this committee has not been raising awareness? Do you think this committee has been unsuccessful in doing this? Does this committee need to make entirely different approaches?

>> GREG SHATAN: I would say the committee has been through a number of phases. I think initially it was very active and engaged, both with itself and with ICANN. And more lately, the committee seems to have gone into a certain quiet phase, meeting much less, the mailing list going much quieter, membership being much less engaged. And I think what it needs is a shot in the arm and the ability to kind of, to move forward. You know, the committee has a great platform to build on and we just need to keep building.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Okay, while we go around, we may have time to go back, but my question is, who are we trying to influence? Am I the cripple trying to influence you the advocate? Because to be honest, we can do that over a bar and don't have to meet weekly. Or are we trying to have influence with the people with the funds, with the plans, and the ability to make the change.

>> GREG SHATAN: The second one.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Well, I'd of thought so. Glenn?

>> GLENN: And I'll circle around on the same question that you asked, Greg. Little bit of background, long before being involved with ICANN, I've been involved with IEEE, as a member, one is called IEEE sited and the Humanitarians committee. Both are committed to providing to support for OER solutions and Humanitarian technology. And many of the solutions they have come up with, which are free and open source software solutions, is working with the special needs community. So that gives me a really practical, hands on experience working International.

In terms of my experience working with ICANN, it goes back to, prior to this committee, working, and Greg eluded to it, the W3C and the WCAG 2.0 and revisions on the ICANN websites to make them accessibility because they were not. So we worked with Laura Bengford and so there was funding available and there were a lot of changes.

One of the things as the former Chair and now Secretariat and Judith will elude to it also. We were dealing with special needs, we had [indiscernible] and ISOC special needs which were ALSs within our group. Unfortunately they are no longer with us and they were no longer active and had to go through the de certification process, but it's still a process.

I did help with the early stages with Gunella with the surveys on the culture of accessibility, and you are absolutely right, when we got the survey back, we got back, don't know, don't know, don't know. It was kind of sad. But just moving forward on my notes to quickly, just as a side bar, and Greg eluded to it as well, the ADA is an opportunity for some people. I did a number of presentations which I'll share with this group and those who are not Americans, you will not understand anything I'm going to say.

There is something called a haunt industry. You guys all know it. For about a month before Halloween, they do these wonderful, huge activities, JC and everyone else, there's 30,000 haunts. So I used to do presentations for Haunt Conn and Midwest Haunters Convention. These are not haunted houses,

these are scare fests. We did a number of presentations who ran the events to avoid the blood sucking lawyers who were going I'm not looking at you, Greg [laughter] but there is a fantastic site I have an haunts accessibility and we were educating people that to make the haunt so it doesn't feel like it was suddenly ADA compliant, the experience was great. So going back to the last thing, I know, I have to accelerate, yeah, we need to go back, recoup what the momentum we had at the first. I think it's dropped down and we need to get the awareness out there. I think there's a lot of people out there interested in this committee, I think it just has dropped off, especially in the past year.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thank you very much. If you don't mind, Judith, can I go to you now? Thanks.

>> JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Hi, it's Judith Hellerstein for the record. I do agree, I worked with Glenn and Gunella on the survey and I think what we got when we first made the and it's like what I have done with what we are now calling the RTT, realtime transcription, is the first step is making people aware. I remember when we first gave the presentation, Diane was like, thank you for letting us know about these things. We hadn't thought about these. It caused us to think, how do we make ICANN a more accessibility community? The same thing with the realtime transcription, when we first brought it to some of the working groups as part of our pilot, they were like, thanks, this is so helpful because we can't get engaged, we have limited bandwidth or English not as a native language and we want to be more moved with ICANN, but this is a stumble block.

And also as you said, we are building within ISOC the special needs group which is called it's a special interest group going A11Y, like Joly, I guess it doesn't pardon the law. We've gotten a lot of groups that are from different parts of the world and we work together on an agreed upon time and they are very interested, now that we have gotten them engaged of, where can I go in ICANN? They want to be part of this. And I know they couldn't make some of meetings because of the time, but they are very interested in getting involved and in continuing this work on culture awareness because there's a need, great need of increasing cultural awareness. It's like the interpreter started because people needed language to get engaged. English was not. Realtime transcription is the same thing. Other different awarenesses to make people aware of these challenges and not putting the stumble blocks in front of people who are trying to get involved. And there's a lot of work still to be done with awareness which are not technology issues, so they don't fall under either the Technology Task Force or some other areas. Some of these can be falling on there, they are technology issues, but others are cultural awareness issues, increased engagement and they are not falling on those. And also because

some people may want a different avenue to work on this. There's a lot of work still to be done in this community as we get more video centric in making sure that captioning and as applications are some of them put in a screen that people screen readers can't see because it's proprietary text technology, it's not working with screen readers, and we need to make everyone aware of these issues.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: You thanks, Judith, some of that Assistive Technology is Technology Task Force very clearly, and the bread and butter with the people working with the budgets to do that.

Daniel, can I ask you, would you like to take two or three minutes or are you observing here? It's up to you totally.

>> DANIEL: Daniel for the record. Member of [indiscernible]. One thing is I have been following the different discussions, especially in the different task forces, especially on accessibility. I would like to say when it comes to the realtime captioning, it generally draws attention to the discussion in that every time you read a statement, you get to understand it deeper and deeper. Yeah? And I think this is a plus.

But back to my work that I do, especially with indigenous communities, the ability to understand content from the website is key to me. And, also, with the way the layout of the content is on the ICANN website and also on the conference does not provide realtime links. So I find if I want information, I have to go and begin searching, which gives me a list. So there is a need to redefine the way information is accesses, usability and simply. And the illustration that is are used. The visual illustrations, the [indiscernible] meaning and I think the need to trigger our thinking on how we communicate content. Yeah. Thank you.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thank you very much, Daniel. And [indiscernible], could you give me a couple of minutes.

>> This is [indiscernible] for the record. And I just want to show my screen. I don't have real life transcription because it doesn't work in iOS. So live example of not having accessibility.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Okay, just for the hiatus and for the record, it is a known problem, not just for your iOS.

>> Yes, I know it is.

>> CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: And this is why we send out the realtime text link for people with iPads for them to be able to see it, they have to have that. We are very much aware of it and so are our good friends in the corner, Sarah Caplis who managed the Adobe Connect, she is definitely aware of this.

>> Can I also say that, and this is just an announcement, on Tuesday, 8:30 in the morning in the Dark PR booth, we are going to receive a donation of a hundred hearing aids from someone. Yes, it's going to be donated so we can use them here in Puerto Rico. Thank you.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: That's absolutely wonderful news. And good luck with perhaps that inspiring other useful donations.

I wasn't trying to minimize the importance of the unsupported content, I was just trying to say that like many of the things I've heard, these are things we've discussed in this committee from memory every time we've met for the last five times, so it's not new news and maybe because we know about this, Sara does realize it's a challenge for her to eventually try and get the Android and iOS users to be able to use it, and, yes, efforts are made such as the link. But if you are running an Adobe Room and you are trying to run the link, you can't do both on an, even a tablet device. It's no point for me as Chair to have any more than a stopwatch running in front of me because I just can't move through those screens and try to keep up with the captioning as well. If it's integrated, it does help. And I should have said, Cheryl for the record.

I want to go just for a second because Daniel wasn't in when we started to frame what we are doing, so what we are doing is spending two or three minutes to answer the question on our individual perspective of the purpose and possible continuing purpose for this committee. So over to you. There's a microphone on the other side.

>> DINA JALKANEN: Hi, I am Dina Jalkanen for the record. I was just behind listening. We can go into the technical details of Adobe and as a geek, I go into technical details for a long period of time. What I see is we have an awesome momentum going. There are other people who are willing to meet more often, who are inspired to work more on accessibility and I think that should be our primary focus, so let the volunteers go forward with the work to get a lot of things done next year.

So to answer the question, the accessibility work, the Cross Community accessibility work [indiscernible] this committee or it continues as a new group? It doesn't matter much to me, personally, as a volunteer and a geek, again, so, yeah, I would like to see active meetings and active

participation and voices heard, things done, and how we decide to do it, I would be very happy to be part of it.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thank you, Dina. For those of you who don't know Herb, he is the ICANN Ombuds.

>> HERB WAYE: Yes, thank you Cheryl. Herb Waye for the record. There are a lot of working groups in ICANN. Some of them come to my attention through my the work I do, through the agendas I support and the people that I meet. To be honest, a few years ago I may have knew there was an Accessibility Working Group, but it was not something I knew much about. I dropped in and there's been some discussion about the future of the group and what I'd like to express is that my office fully supports the concept and the theory and the ideas behind anything that makes ICANN a better place, more accessible, more diverse, more inclusive, and though I don't get very many complaints, or the office in the past have not received many complaints about accessibility, there have been some and I would very much like to participate in the furthering of the work that this group is doing. And I would also potentially see this group as a channel for any issues that come to my office to be able to address them properly, rather than just chasing somebody from ICANN and saying, you know, somebody can't get up the up on the sidewalk or there are issues with the screens, they are not clear at the back, something like that, because those complaints do come to my office from time to time because people don't know who to address them to. So I am actually kind of a little bit excited to be able to participate today with you folks and hope that the work you've done in the past and the work you continue to do in the future is something I can actually participate with and maybe come to you when issues pop up. I would be able to come to you folks with those problems or concerns that people have so they can be properly addressed rather than me just filing them away as a complaint, who somebody unfortunately their disability has led them to an issue that they have not been able to overcome. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I wish you the best of luck and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting and maybe participating in your future calls. Thank you.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thanks very much, Herb. It's interesting because one of the reasons that the face to face meetings were regularly held as just open meetings was to allow for people who were having challenges to feel they had a safe place to come and raise their issues and that's where we've had a number of ah ha moments around the table. Certainly staff has said, oh, hadn't heard that, now we know, we can do something about it. So it's great that your office can make good use.

And there are a few recognizable faces and expertise is now recognized, so even if the ALAC did choose to discontinue this committee, you can probably rely on a cadre of subject matter experts, I guess, that should be called upon as you as Ombuds or any other staff of the planning reviewing and beta testing should that come to pass. But I don't think all is lost is what I'm suggesting.

A couple of things I heard here and there was a little bit of going back over where we were, and that's important because we've been through a number of, despite some lack of evidence in our website, through a number of projects that definitely have made a difference.

And Gunella, I want to thank you for your message to the list reminding of all of those things. But some of the stuff here, too, is not just the success of the captioning and the captioning is important for a number of people who are not necessarily overtly identified with challenges in accessibility, but rather linguistic is an issue for them, English is not their first language, or bandwidth is an issue. You just can't get the audio stream working effectively. So, you know, the realtime captioning is an important feature, but, again, we always recognize it would be good if it wasn't unsupported content.

The idea of having a champion is a well-practiced one in a number of organizations and probably something that we should have as a future discuss point, but the cultural awareness is a currently focused on and will be focused on topic for ICANN. And if you will indulge me, I want to give Heidi a couple of minutes now just to bring us up to speed on what's happening with cultural awareness. And what I'll say just before I hand over to Heidi, if she can, perhaps, channel some of ICANN Learn with that as a resource, not so much as a platform, as an existing platform that is aggressively looking for opportunity for content. That is there, we don't need to make that happen, but we do need to utilize it. I am also keen to remind you all that the work in diversity is about to start as well. And the diversity implementation out of the recommendations from Work Stream 2 is another opportunity for us to make those changes as well.

So Heidi, over to you.

>> HEIDI ULLRICH: Thank you very much, Cheryl. This is Heidi. Perfect timing because the Academy Working Group held their meeting, which again they only meet at ICANN meetings, and they held that this morning and they agreed that the intracultural awareness course will begin using ICANN Learn much more often. I want to just let you know that the intercultural awareness course is from the ICANN Academy. It's directed by them. It is very much a community driven Cross Community Committee, just like this one, and they it's their third program. The ICANN Academy Working Group

has also, they also have the leadership program that is now in its, I think, fifth year. They have the chairing skills program, which will have its second iteration at ICANN 63. And then the intercultural awareness course held a very successful first pilot in Abu Dhabi, very full house, packed house and the feedback was very positive. They did ask that it be extended and for ICANN 63 there will be a full day program for the intercultural awareness course on the last day, that Friday which is the development outreach day. And this time the work team, that is a cross regional work team of the ICANN Academy, will be working to develop content on ICANN Learn. Now, again, this is not just written material, it's also podcasts, possibly videos, et cetera, so multiple ways for people to access that. Thank you, Cheryl.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thank you, Heidi. And, again, this is all about rising with the same tide. [Laughter]. We are seeing a normalization of what we keep quoting the ex Chair, the prior Chair of the ICANN Board who simply said, but why are you even doing this, Cheryl? Shouldn't it just be in the DNA of everything we do? Well, yeah, that's a great objective, but we do have we're trying to make sure that we could help that happen.

A couple of action items which carry over from previous meetings, and that is the work to go on with the survey Part II. Just to remind, the volunteers who desire to be more active, that you were able in the past to work with Diane on this. Diane is now leaving our organization, so we will need to find someone else to take up that mantle. And when we work up who that is thank you when we work up who that is, we'll make sure, if this committee is continuing, that the people who put their hand up before or had their hand put up, you may have been volunteered will reaffirm your interest to assist in that and I'm assuming that, you know, the same people will put their hands up again, but they may not wish to. And they will be able to work directly, intersessionally, with whoever it is that is taking this over from Diane.

Greg, please, over to you. Just a reminder, we have about ten minutes before we need to wrap up our call.

>> GREG SHATAN: One of the things I've learned doing my web accessibility, you know, professionally, from a legal standpoint, I also have a Twitter feed #at web access law. It's not in the DNA which is why it's so easy to sue companies for being in violation of web accessibility. I have a little speech, the IT Team doesn't know about it, the web developer doesn't know it or doesn't like it because it cramps their style, if someone is in charge of accessibility, they are usually dealing with physical issues and employee issues and not the website. And marketing which is nominally in charge of the website

doesn't know about it. And the legal team doesn't follow this either. So it falls right in the middle of a bunch of people's laps, which means it falls to the ground. It needs focus and relentlessness and continued awareness. We need to be a central clearing house because yes there is a Technology Task Force, there is diversity, and we could pick out a couple other things, but just as with all the laps, if we don't keep in mind and help them keep in mind and provide kind of a clearing house, coordinating, cheerleading aspect, it will get lost. I don't know that the diversity group considered disability diversity as much as they should have as opposed to other things. So I think this is a very, very necessary group. I would be very disappointed if ALAC didn't continue to support it because I think it is in many ways an end user issue and one of the things where ALAC has to be a bit of the conscious of ICANN.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thank you, Greg. And I'm sure that was part of the motivation for ALAC when they agreed to continue it on in its current form.

I will mention to you because Allan has not arrived and I did offer his apologies temporarily, that he is taking this, and his Leadership Team, are taking the call to close this committee, and there has been a call to close this committee, and that is business they are going to deal with it, whether we like it or not, we just get to make some recommendations to them, I hope, and I am hearing very positive things in today's group and that will be reflected in the recommendations. Whether they take those recommendations, again, is out of our control. But Allan has reached out and is happy for me to share with you, he has reached out to a number of case staff in ICANN and asked for a full, frank, and fearless review of how much help we've been, how much of a nuisance we have been, do you sit under your desk and hum loudly every time our name is mentioned? You know, that type of conversation because you can meet weekly, you can have the most amazing meeting metrics and still be not listened to. So it's the effectiveness of our voice that we are interested in. And it's the effectiveness of the voice that Allan has been asking about. I don't know what he is hearing back. All right? It's not my place to know what he is hearing back. But I do know, he asked me to say, he's asking and he's getting answers and he will be sharing that with the decision making process to go on. If the staff around this table has not been tapped on the shoulder yet [laughter], so please don't hide under your desk when he does come your way, if you could let our staff know because Allan wants to catch up with you all. All right? So I'm acting as an advocate here for him to get real information back to help the ALAC make its decision.

With that, the next point will be sorry, who's the hand? Daniel? Daniel, go ahead. I see you Daniel.

>> DANIEL: Daniel for the record. I guess for the group's purposes, when Greg mentioned about testing the performance and the accessibility of the ICANN website. I did a very quick, rapid test on the ICANN website and the results are really so terrible. Let me just walk through them. 24 for performance. [Indiscernible] 45. Accessibility 77. But there was overall the performance being at 24. The best practice 75. And 78 for optimization. This brings to our attention that there's a little bit more work that has got to be done on accessibility. Thank you.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Can you turn your mic off? Thank you very much, Daniel. And Laura has worked with external consultants as well, but it's a rolling thing as well. There's different parts of it that get addressed at different times. I'm not trying to speak to her project, but I do know not everything gets the magic brush at the same time.

I've got her next. Is there anyone else who has raised their hand up? Ah, we've been trying, if you can just forgive me more a moment, Dina, we will get to you, I promise.

We have been trying for most of the meeting to get Joly connected and because we have Joly connected it would be nice if we could have an intervention from him if he wishes to make it.

Gunella, do you want to have a second you have, hand raised. I must be psychic. Gunella, over to you, very briefly over to you.

>> GUNELLA ASTBRINK: Thanks, Cheryl, Gunella Astbrink for the record. Just wanted to follow up on what Greg had to say, mainstreaming of accessibility is fantastic. We want it to be in the DNA, but until it is and it is far from it, we need to have a committee where all of the issues are focused and then from there, committee members can stream out and participate in the other relevant committees to make sure that accessibility is included where it needs to be. So that's the value of the committee status. Thank you.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thank you very much. And I can report that Joly doesn't wish to take the floor, but we're delighted that staff have worked so hard to make sure he has been properly connected.

Dina, over to you.

>> DINA JALKANEN: I'm Dina Jalkanen for the record. We have been face to face and the committee has only met two times and there was not a lot of work of the committee before, so now that I actually

see you, can we have a show of hands who would be interested in meeting more often? Than two times a year. So about half. Yeah. And there's staff. All right. Yeah, so most of us.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thank you, Dina. Of course, the poll

>> DINA JALKANEN: Sorry. So my question is, now that we have met and expressed a clear desire for more active work and more regular and more frequent meetings, would it be okay to arrange?

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: I have absolutely no idea, Dina. My name is Cheryl Langdon Orr. I'm currently the ALAC appointed Chair of this committee, however, the ALAC is currently deciding if there is a future or purpose for this committee. We have met now to consider what we can advise them. That is very much up to them. So I cannot give you an answer to that question.

>> DINA JALKANEN: If you wanted input on whether to continue or not, shall we have a show of hands, do we continue? Do we continue with more frequent meetings? And then we can see how the majority of people sit so we are more clear.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Okay. The show of hands you just had, we observed. Would the people who put their hand up before in answer to Dina's question care to put their hand up again so we can perhaps record you. Thank you. I hope staff has imagined that extremely long list to be accurately recorded a second time. Is there anything else you would like us to do?

>> DINA JALKANEN: What I meant is we are not to have more frequent meetings and we are to continue these only two meetings and there's no work in between, who would like to still continue this committee?

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Again, if we can get back to all right, Greg, please go ahead, and Daniel. We have got to finish our meeting, supposedly in five minutes, so please be brief. Greg.

>> GREG SHATAN: One minute. The one minute timer. So I what I wanted to say is that personally the last few years I have been very involved in a lot of other projects and in the leadership of another constituency group. I've left that. And I'm also wrapping up my Rapporteur job and I've also joined the Board of ISOC New York so I'm gradually mutated to an At Large person so I want to elevate this committee on my list of important to dos. And so whatever I can do to make this committee active and effective and relentless in bringing accessibility, culture, and technology into ICANN, I am that is

if I'm looking for something to do as an At Large person, I would very happy to make this one kind of my top thing. Thanks.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Good to hear. Our next speaker is Daniel.

>> DANIEL: Daniel for the record. This is interesting, but it said that this is one of the working groups that is said to be working [indiscernible]. But I think we should not dispute the work that has been done by the Technology Task Force because if this happens, then I think we can consolidate the work of accessibility and put it into the Technology Task Force and create a subset to strictly discuss the issue of accessibility since it is a technology issue. And, also, I'm very happy that I think I can work with Greg on this since I have at least a technology background. Yeah, thank you.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thank you, Daniel. And I think most of us have recognized, it's certainly been discussed in the meetings we've held over the last few years and while the meeting records are poorly recorded, the transcript, every word we say, is searchable and is available. But we do recognize that not all accessibility issues are technology issues. So a good swath could be treated that way and maybe should be treated that way, but that leaves some questions that our Ombuds Office that gets that is not technology curable.

We are at the top of the hour, minus 3. Go ahead, Dina.

>> DINA JALKANEN: And while ALAC is deciding how to proceed with this group, we are still functioning and there's work to be done, so can we convene more often before that happens? And do you have a possibility to meet more often? And if not, shall we appoint a culture, for instance, who has a time, perhaps anyone willing to take the time? I would be very happy just get on the accessibility things. Thank you.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thank you, Dina. And we've heard your opinion on the desirability of frequency. We've heard here today that people would like to be active and I guess I need to ask Allan what it is we need to do next because I could suggest we meet every week for the following six weeks, but whether or not that is going to be supported by the ALAC, without him here I can't possibly happen. You can preach to the converted if you want and get the answer that is predictably yes, but whether or not we can make that happen, I can't guarantee.

So let's look at our next steps which is what we should be doing in the last few minutes.

Daniel, your hand is still up. Thank you.

And that is, let's take the same poll question that we started today to the list again, noting to the list that it gives the list an opportunity to, if they didn't have time last time to respond, to respond this time. We can add the poll question on frequency of meetings to the list if you so desire. We will, at this stage, ask the ALAC if they can get back to us in a timely fashion with what their plans and intentions are and report back to a list, if not a meeting. What are we now? We are at pretty much close half way through March, no later than early to mid April, if that suits them. Am I getting thumbs up? I'm just trying to give them time to work with. Okay. And so that will give some sort of limiting there.

Glenn, go ahead.

>> GLENN: I have my miniature name tag up, but now what the hell was I going to say? 1, 2, 3, 4 from NOELA, we are underrepresented here from the other RALOs and we need to make sure we reach out to the other RALOs. We have two people per call, you know, it's designated and we clearly need, and thank you that you are here, but where are the other people from the other RALOs? That's my observation. It's been consistent. Beside yourself, you are well represented as well.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Gunella is here from AP, too.

>> JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: This is Judith Hellerstein for the record. We would have a lot more people here if there wasn't a conflict with the auction for the GCC proceeds, which is at the same time and drawing people. I know I'm trying to follow both things and I think people that are here is not necessarily a reflection of what their interests are. They may be more interested in one or the other, but that is not something that, I think, we do have a lot of interest from AP RALO and from others as can be seen and when we did the RTT, they were very interested. And, in fact, AP RALO was one of the ones that kept asking for realtime transcription on their webinars.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thank you. So this is, if we don't count staff, one of the smallest turn-ups we've had at our face to face meetings, for the record. If we don't count staff, this is the smallest number we've had of people who are just interested members of the community. So, yes, the competition aspect is one that is possibly, possibly an issue.

So we have a very small action item list to go some questions to go out to the list that may go out as a Survey Monkey, some feedback with the ALAC, and request that we look at an early to mid April timeline on them getting back to us. And with that, I'm not sure what other business we can actually

conduct today because we're in this bizarre situation of a call to close and not being able to deal with the call to close.

So is there anyone that wanted to make final comments? Gunella, would you like to make a final comment at all?

>> GUNELLA ASTBRINK: Thanks, Cheryl. This is Gunella. It's a bit hard to make any final comments. I think most of it has been said. I just think that there is such great possibility to continue the work that I really hope that we can do that. And if it hadn't been for this committee and the previous one and Judith's hard work, and Glenn, we can't have all of this realtime text transcription that we have now. And it's a technology issue, there are many non technology issues we have already mentioned, that I've mentioned, and there is a great need for this group. Thank you.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Thanks, Gunella. Is there anyone else who desperately wishes to make a closing statement? If not, let's draw a line under today's technology. Thank especially the ICANN staff who have been influenced and do think about accessibility issues. I argue that Greg, at higher than average level because if you use the benchmark of some of the companies you were describing and compared it to ICANN now, I think you'd find there's a big gap between those two. So credit where credit's due. They have drunk the Kool Aid and I'd like to think we had a small effect on making it palatable if not actually fun and friendly at times.

>> GREG SHATAN: I do, too, I would just like to keep on serving Kool Aid.

>> CHERYL LANGDON ORR: [Laughter]. All right, ladies and gentlemen, we may not have the results that some of you want, but we'll get there eventually. Thank you one and all. Thanks to the tech team. Thank, Joly for joining in. Thank you, tech team. And bye for now.

[Meeting concluded]