

Pierce County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities, 6315 S 19th St, Tacoma, Washington 98466

July 9 2010

Christine Seymour called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

- Voting Members Present:** Christine Seymour, Robert Wardell, Wayne Terry, Lynn Stagg, and David Rand.
- Voting Members Absent (regrets sent):** Dan Eberle, Penny Condoll, and Alice Stephenson.
- Voting Members Absent:** Linda Lohdefinck and Ron Stone.
- Non-voting Members Present:** Chris Ensor, Cindy Hartman, Mike Rooney, Bob Riler, and Anthony Bonura.
- Non-voting Members Absent (regrets sent):** Trina Forest, Patt Buff, and Julie Anderson.

Approval of May 14, 2010 Minutes

Wayne moved to approve the minutes of May 14, 2010. Lynn seconded. No discussion ensued. The minutes were declared approved.

Ballot Drop Box Update

Mike reported that a larger drop box is scheduled to be placed at the Annex by the end of July. The County is finalizing placement agreements with PC Libraries, Pierce Transit, and the University Place Police Station.

The majority of the boxes are scheduled to be installed in November or December 2010. The County hasn't reached an agreement with Sound Transit. Permits are limited. The sub-committee will schedule a site preview for locations needing committee approval during the week of August 23, 2010.

Disability Awareness Manual

Mike stated Pierce County is planning on printing the manual. Now that the Voters' Pamphlet is completed, the manual should go to print next week.

Grant Cycle #3 Proposal

Grant #3 will be formally approved when Sam Reed, Secretary of State, signs the grant request. Its highlights include pamphlets, brochures and voter guides, ballot drop boxes, a voter outreach and candidate forum, support for accessible voting centers, disability awareness training, and support for

the committee. Funds allocated for the forum were \$6,500 and \$10,000 for four outreach sessions. This grant extends through 2011.

Grant #2 is extended to the end of 2010. The majority of the money spent so far has been for the group meetings. Development and work on the Disability Manual has been billed. The purchase of drop boxes will be a large percentage of Grant #2 expenditures. Money has to be spent by the end of 2010. Money for training forums was stipulated in this grant. Funds allocated for additional printing of The Voting Brochure will be used to print the Disability Awareness Manual.

The committee requested a spreadsheet for Grants #2 and #3 showing 1) money spent, 2) money earmarked, and 3) remaining balance.

Advisory Committee Membership

The Committee currently has 10 members and the Advisory Committee guidelines allow a maximum of 12 members. Suggestions were requested on ways to fill the two vacancies on the Advisory Committee. The focus was for a senior citizen representative and a disabled veteran representative.

Robert will provide contact information to Christine for his youth director, who is a disabled veteran.

Christine will create a cover sheet regarding the opportunity for membership on our committee or to attend our meetings. Chris and David will hand out the cover sheet and committee guidelines at the *Heroes to Home Towns* meeting Tuesday night. There are thirty organizations pertaining to veterans that attend. Anthony asked about VA Hospital for contacts. More than one could attend meetings.

Christine will be the contact person for people interested in membership. She will use the member paperwork for some basic information.

To keep membership current, Lynn offered to contact members that have un-excused absences. Christine will provide Lynn with names, phone numbers, and email addresses for our current members. Robert will be an alternate.

Voter Education and Forums

Aging and Long Term Care Forum

David attended the Aging and Long Term Care meeting and their forum plans were discussed. This forum would consist of an Advisory Board and a legislative advisory committee to pursue a candidate forum. It would be held September 18, 2010, after the Primary, at three locations concurrently from 10-12 p.m. The forum would focus on candidates running for State Senator or State Representative within a given district to discuss issues for people with disabilities and older adults. All seven districts would be represented. The forum facilitators include the League of Women Voters and the Aging and Long Term Care Group. Voters will be able to ask questions by written submission for candidates. Issues that may be discussed might be hearing aids for lower income, respite care, literacy, homeless issues, and lack of literacy. The candidates would be given a packet with background information so they can make a rational, logical presentation. This forum will only address State issues and focuses on candidate education for the voter.

Pierce County Voting and Accessibility Committee Forum

CFI will provide the publicity and budget costing for this forum. TACID will provide the site and personnel on the day of the event. Dates to choose from are Sept 29th or Oct 6th. If the format is to be similar to the 2008 forum, the time would be late afternoon through the evening. The forum would provide an opportunity for people to learn how to get registered, locations of ballot drop sites, practice on voting machines with a workshop, and candidate booths relevant to disabilities. Voters would have the opportunity to meet and greet candidates. Disability organizations would be invited to promote their services. Candidates could make a short address. The first hour would be used for socialization. This forum would focus on voter education.

The committee agreed to partner with the Aging and Long Term Care forum. Bob will be given fliers to distribute for the committee forum and the committee will distribute information about their forum.

Christine advocated that the Aging and Long Term Care Forum provide accessible communication. Having ASL interpreters at three locations would cost \$1,200-\$1,500. Bob reported that there is no budget for their forum. The locations are donated. Marketing will be accomplished at no cost through County and other networks. David moved for our committee to pay the interpreter fees. Wayne seconded. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted. Mike will confirm this is allowed under the grant.

David moved to give CFI and TACID the okay to proceed with the forum planning. It was seconded by Lynn. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Meeting Date

The next committee meeting will be Friday, September 17, 2010 from 12-2 p.m. at TACID. Lunch will be provided.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

Distribution of the Disability Awareness Manual.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.