

Pierce County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

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

March 11, 2011

Christine Seymour called the meeting to order at 12:29 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Christine Seymour, Ron Stone, Robert Wardell, Wayne Terry, Dan Eberle, Penny Condoll, David Rand, Leah Thomas, and Anthony Bonura.

Voting Members Absent (regrets sent): None.

Voting Members Absent: Lynn Stagg.

Non-voting Members Present: Ken Gibson, Patt Buff, Gloria Kraegel, Connie Johnson, Mike Rooney, and Cindy Hartman.

Approval of February 11, 2011 Minutes

A motion was requested to approve the minutes. Wayne moved to approve the minutes of February 11, 2011. Ron seconded. Discussion ensued to change “committee” to “commission” under the heading “Pierce County Disability Advisory Committee”. The changes were accepted in the motion. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were declared approved.

Drop Box Update

Cindy presented updates on potential box sites. She asked for approval for a change in site locations at the Puyallup Library, Ross Plaza (DuPont), plus both temporary sites and permanent permits to site in the future for the 26th St Police Substation and Pt Fosdick. Ron moved to accept the site revisions, temporary sites, and permits for permanent locations to be determined at a future date. Wayne seconded. Discussion ensued. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Alternate Format PSA Video

Christine researched ASL videos and the video from Minnesota stood out using the opening statement “You Decide”. It was filmed in their capitol building, and addressed subjects such as what happens there, types of decisions made, voter rights, early intervention, etc. It discussed the voting process and had powerful links for other disabilities such as cognitive impairment voter rights.

Christine proposed collaboration with the State to create a video at the State Capital located on their website and allow links for each county to adapt with their information. **Christine will write the Minnesota commission** for permission to use their material and apply to our area. **Mike will approach Tom Allman** to see if we can get help from the State to create a video. It will need to be user friendly, using plain talk.

Pierce County Disability Advisory Commission

Christine got an email from the County Executive's Office. The PCVAAC members were asked to sit on their advisory commission. Christine relayed that the commission is an excellent idea, but the PCVAAC members weren't ready to commit to it. The PCVAAC was progressive due its ability to focus efforts. Members felt that joining the commission might dilute that focus. Dan is on the committee that will decide how to access those funds. He'll keep us updated. He has reminded the Executive's Office that pursuing members for the commission will enable the County to access available revenue from disabled parking tickets.

Voter's Forum Recap Letter

Trina was unavailable to report her progress at this meeting. **The item will be moved to the May 13, 2011 meeting agenda.**

Committee Membership Guidelines

An application from Jeff Daggett, a Board member of Aging and Long Term Care, will be submitted. **David and Dan will write up an addendum to the guidelines for the process of bringing on new members.** Robert offered to help too.

Grant #4

Application for the next grant cycle closes April 1, 2011. Mike reported there is \$300,000 available to 39 counties. He presented a draft proposal of the grant application.

Priority of the Secretary of State's Office for awarding this grant is to 1) improve education, 2) improve accessibility for voters with disabilities, and 3) award counties that have a disability committee.

Mike requested approval to move forward with the grant application. It included the following:

- Three forums - citizen forum, 2011 candidate forum, and 2012 presidential forum.

- Online brochure to print on demand.

- (2) Ballot drop boxes to include purchase, installation, and decals.

- Materials in alternate formats (continue to provide audio of Voters' Pamphlet).

- Accessibility training for four voting centers throughout the County. Specialized training for interaction with disability community.

- Advisory Committee – six meetings, consult and support expenses.

- Waller Road Grange – temporary accessible access on election days.

Discussion ensued.

The question was posed about having our 2011 candidate forum in two or three different locations to better accommodate the various city races, thinking there may be too many candidates for one location. However, the Aging and Long Term Care forums, held at different locations, had very disappointing turnouts. Penny suggested we try to combine resources with other agencies offering forums. **Trina will need to add input for forums.**

Brochure on demand was discussed. Its purpose is to provide information about our disability committee, our accomplishments and goals, and voting education. It would allow anyone to print brochures for specific events.

Dan suggested adding another drop box for reserve.

Christine requested inclusion of deaf community members in the poll worker training to enable them to work at TACID on Election Day. Interpreters would be needed during the training. **Christine and Anthony will identify workers and forward their contact information to Cindy.**

Permanent versus temporary access at Waller Road Grange was discussed. In the event polls are closed, using a temporary threshold ramp allows usage elsewhere in the future.

Dan made a motion to accept the grant with changes as discussed. More money will be added for forums and boxes. Wayne seconded. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Good of the Order

Mike reported that **Tom Allman asked our committee members to critique the State's website** on information for voters with disabilities. He specifically mentioned checking the links. **Mike will send a link to Ken for distribution, along with Cindy's email address** so feedback can be sent to her.

Another item of note is that Democratic and Republican Party conventions will be held at the Tacoma Convention Center May 30 – June 03. It would be great if the committee could have a booth at both conventions, staffed by PCVAAC members.

Meeting Date

The next committee meeting will be May 13, 2011 from 12-2 p.m. at TACID. Lunch will be provided.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.