



**SKAMANIA COUNTY AUDITOR
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October 30, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Skamania County Disability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

The Skamania County Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) met at the Skamania County Courthouse on October 30, 2013.

Attendees were:

David O'Brien, Skamania County Elections Supervisor
Mari Nygaard, Skamania County Republicans
Susan King, Skamania County Democrats
Sharon Vance, County Clerk
Sandy Bacus, Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities South West
Laurel Hicks, Washington Gorge Action Programs

Welcome. David O'Brien welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their attendance. David also reviewed the purpose of the Disability Advisory Committee, which includes approval of grant requests for improving voter accessibility.

Review/Approval of July 31, 2013 Minutes. The committee members reviewed the minutes of the July 31, 2013 Disability Advisory Committee meeting and action items. Mari made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Susan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Review/Approval of the DAC Plan

The DAC Plan was reviewed and Mari made a motion to approve the plan as presented. Sandy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Election updates.

David reviewed the general election ballot, which includes 7 state measures including 5 advisory votes. As of this meeting 11% of the ballots have been received. The average for a non mid-term or Presidential election is 40 – 50%.

Guide Dog Puppy Raising for the Blind Presentation.



Sharon Vance gave a presentation on the guide dog program for the blind, which includes 8 western states. As a member of the High Hopes Puppy Raisers of Stevenson she raises puppies which, if accepted, go on to more formal training at the campus in Boring, Or. The formal guide dog training takes 16 months. She brought in Butterscotch, the puppy she is currently raising. Sharon talked about the commitment it takes to raise a potential guide dog puppy and the satisfaction of seeing a dog graduate and matched with a person. About 50% of the puppies raised in this program will make it as a guide dog and the length of service for a guide dog is 8 – 9 years.

Voter outreach.

David provided packets of voter pamphlets to be handed out to the post offices in North Bonneville, Stevenson, Carson, and Underwood.

The team discussed additional outreach opportunities such as a contest by school children to create a poster to encourage voter participation with the potential of the winning poster gracing the cover of the next voter pamphlet. This will be discussed further at the next meeting. The Auditor's office will make the final decision on whether to proceed with this proposal.

Sandy and Laurel suggested having eSlate voter handouts available as they meet with people within their respective job responsibilities. Both plan to leverage the existing eSlate voter information handout provided by David.

Action: Have eSlate voter handout available for the early spring 2014 Aging In Place initiative. (Sandy)

Action: Have eSlate voter handout available when meeting with people for energy assistance programs. (Laurel)

There will be a voter outreach effort at the high school in December.

Action: Provide voter registration and general voter information to applicable seniors at the high school. (David)

The following action items were completed:

Expand the Assistance to Voter page on the Skamania County website to include more information about the electronic voting machine, the eSlate. (David)

Check who the current best Veterans contacts are and invite them to attend the next DAC meeting. (David)

Identify potential DAC meeting attendees from Youth in Government and invite them to the next DAC meeting. (David)

The following action items are carried forward:

Action: Extend an invitation to the Friends of the Library to attend the next DAC meeting. (Mari and Sandra)

Action: Talk to the people associated with the "help dogs" and invite them to attend the next DAC meeting. (Marissa)

Next Meeting.



The next election will be on February 11, 2014. The next meeting will be held approximately 1 week prior to the election. The group will be informed when a date is set.

