



**SKAMANIA COUNTY AUDITOR
TIMOTHY O. TODD**

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October 29, 2012

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 23, 2012.

Attendees were:

Mary Nygaard, Skamania County Republicans
Millie Medlin, Senior Citizen Volunteer
Fay Weber, Senior Citizen
Clara Lamb, Senior Citizen and Volunteer
Arlene Johnson, Skamania County Senior Center
Susan King, Skamania County Democrats
Patrick Crane, Community Volunteer
David O'Brien, Skamania County Elections Supervisor
Sharon Weinhold, Skamania County Accessibility Coordinator

Welcome. David O'Brien welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their attendance and participation. He said Auditor Tim Todd was engaged in county budget discussions and would not be available to attend the meeting. He stated the grant for the Skamania County Accessibility Coordinator will end in December and this will be Sharon's final meeting. He expressed appreciation for her work with the committee.

Review/Approval of July 25, 2012 Minutes. The committee members reviewed the minutes of the July 25, 2012 Disability Advisory Committee meeting and action items. Arlene made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Clara seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Primary Update. Turnout statewide for the August 7, 2012 Primary was disappointing. For Washington State, 38.5% of the voters returned their ballots. For Skamania County, 2,443 ballots were returned of the 6,742 mailed, a return rate of 36.2%. About 50% of the ballots were returned through the ballot boxes; 28% were returned through the three new ballot boxes at the Skamania County Courthouse in Stevenson, North Bonneville, and Carson. The Stevenson ballot box had the highest use. Verbal feedback on the new ballot boxes was very positive. It is expected that use of the ballot boxes will increase for the General/Presidential Election.

Feedback on Events/Activities.



Disability Advisory Committee members participated in several events since the last meeting.

Skamania County Fair, August 15-19. The committee had a booth at the fair. The goal was to register voters, update voter information and distribute information about the eSlate voting equipment and accessible ballot boxes. Due to the hot weather, attendance at the fair was light during the first three days of the fair. However, we did make some good contacts and several said they would like to participate on the Disability Advisory Committee. Additionally, 15 voters either registered to vote for the first time or updated their voter registration. Fair goers received information and became more aware of the accessibility equipment and ballot boxes.

Skamania County Wellness Fair, September 15. At the suggestion of the committee, we had a table at the Skamania County Wellness Fair on Saturday from 9am – 1pm, at the Rock Creek Hegewald Center. We had Voter Registration Forms available, gave attendees the opportunity to vote a demonstration ballot on the eSlate and handed out information about the eSlate and accessible ballot boxes. We made some excellent contacts, and several expressed interest in joining the Disability Advisory Committee.

Stevenson High School, October 2. Mr. Todd and David visited the Stevenson High School to invite students who were eligible to vote but had not yet registered to register to vote. They also made students aware of the accessibility equipment and ballot boxes.

Senior Centers. Mr. Todd, David and Sharon visited the Stevenson Senior Center in August. In addition, Sharon visited the North Bonneville Senior Center and Library in North Bonneville on October 23 and left Voter Registration Forms and Information Cards. She invited Senior Center volunteers to participate in the Disability Advisory Committee.

TVW DVD Voters' Guide Pilot Project. The Secretary of State's Office led this project with TVW and the Long Term Care Ombudsmen to help make sure every citizen is informed of the issues and candidates appearing on the General Election ballot. The focus was Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities. These facilities were offered a free DVD to show to their residents to help prepare them to vote. The Rock Cove requested a DVD for its residents along with about 60 other facilities in Washington State. The participating facilities will be asked for feedback after the Election.

Article in Local Media. The committee submitted an article, "*New Ballot Boxes a Hit with Voters*", about the Disability Advisory Committee, eSlate and ballot boxes to the Pioneer and River Talk News. Both published the articles. In addition, the Chamber and Stevenson Senior Center included information from the articles in their newsletters.

Libraries, DSHS Office, Pharmacy. Committee members visited and made sure these locations had Voter Registration Forms and/or Information Cards.

Upcoming Events/Activities.

Committee members expressed concern about the conclusion of the grant for the Skamania County Accessibility Coordinator and wondered how the committee would continue in the future. Since the Skamania County Auditor's Office is so small, there was discussion about the Disability Advisory Committee members taking a role in keeping it going. One member agreed to be the liaison with the Auditor's Office and make the meeting announcement calls/send the emails to the members. Another member agreed to



write the meeting minutes and suggested that role could be rotated. Others discussed things they could do to help. A suggestion was made to have a Transition Meeting with the Accessibility Coordinator before the end of the year to discuss what the committee members can do to help, assign responsibilities and get the members who were absent involved. Also, at that time we would update the Disability Advisory Committee Plan. The attendees agreed to have the Transition Meeting on December 12.

Next Steps.

As a result of the discussions, the following actions will be taken:

-Prepare for Transition meeting on December 12.

After the meeting, two committee members voted their ballots on the eSlate. Others plan to vote on the eSlate when they are ready to vote.

Sharon Weinhold
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