

Santa Cruz County
Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, October 20, 2016 – 10:30 a.m.
701 Ocean St. 3rd Floor Elections

MINUTES

In attendance: Gail Pellerin, Veronica Elsea, Jim Davies, Helen Ruiz-Thomas, Lynn Stipes, Cody Kiff, Amy Sheppard

November 2016 Election – We reviewed polling place locations and how they often have some changes. Discussions continued about how surveying gives us a chance to identify challenges regarding accessibility.

All Saints Episcopal Church was recommended as not accessible. Parking is the biggest challenge it is primarily gravel and filled with potholes. There is a paved area but the path of travel crosses the road. Jim and Cody led the discussion about requirements for accessible parking and usable scenarios for set up. We agreed that it was too late in the election process to remove this site from the list. However in the future, we should be informing a polling place of ADA requirements to give them the option of bringing things up to code in order for them to continue as a polling place. As a routine practice a follow up letter should be mailed to a poll site facility that is not in compliance with ADA identifying those items. The committee approved use.

We reviewed the blue binder for All Saints Episcopal Church. Jim reported on the updates, improvements, language and the organization of file storage.

Jim reported that Calabasas Elementary School principle does not want pedestrian traffic through hallways on Election Day. We reviewed the blue binder to look at potential paths of travel and parking. There is a paved area closer to poll site. The options are; street parking with path of travel through school that has existing ADA parking. People using public transportation will need to walk through the school; there is parking in the back on pavement with one accessible parking if needed. The committee questioned whether any of the school staff used the one ADA parking available. Jim will follow up.

Gail reported that poll worker training's in full swing. There is a new mini manual. If needed poll workers have been advised to call 911 if

they experience any issues of intimidation. We will be making sure to have enough staff coverage for the “2060” hotline on Election Day. Veronica volunteered to work the phone bank.

Gail thanked Veronica for her feedback on the County Voter Information Guide.

Gail reports that we continue to work on multilingual materials. We have been able to place several poll workers that speak Chinese at UCSC. There are three tagalong translators in South County. Each election we strive to have Spanish speakers at all locations.

Asian Americans for Disability Rights, Nigorno Coraba, SOS and the grand jury are expected to observe the election.

Gail reports there is a change in the process of handling vote by mail ballots at the polls. To surrender a vote by mail ballot, if wants to give up their vote by mail ballot without the envelope they will vote provisionally. If someone has a vote by mail ballot but doesn't have the envelope, they will be given a new manila envelope to use with their vote by mail ballot. There will no longer be any surrendered vote by mail ballots.

VoteCal is now the official system of record

State VAAC will be sending an Election Day accessibility survey again, Gail will forward when she gets it.

Legislative update is that SB450 was signed into law. It says voting centers will be implemented. Gail has questions about the details of logistics, facilities, remote connectivity, cost, ADA accessibility. SB589 reinstates voting rights to people under conservatorship, if they can communicate their desire to vote. SB2466 provides clarification regarding felony convictions as related to voting rights.

The website design is ongoing but on back burner until after the election.

Outreach opportunities included the vision expo. Lynn reports that she and Cassie attended. She learned a lot about what's available and has a clearer understanding and use of our audio system. Gail suggests that we re-engage with the Santa Cruz County Commission on Disability.

VAAC Membership- we need to recruit more members. Helen suggests contacting Hope Services again to discuss continued collaborations. The idea is to have VAAC meetings become a routine

activity for Hope Services to attend with their clients. She will follow up. There were suggestions to invite someone that is hearing impaired. Amy was asked to invite John.

Meeting Schedule For 2016

Thursday, December 22 at 10:30am