

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes July 16, 2010

In Attendance:

Karen Herr, Mason County Auditor
Mike Rutter, Mason County Facilities Manager
Libby Avery, Mason County Transit Community Center
Fina Dahman, Secretary

Karen called the meeting to order at 10:28 a.m.

Karen announced that our Voting Accessibility Grant for two additional drop boxes through HAVA was approved. One is to be installed at the Port of Allyn and a drive by box is to be installed at the Shelton Timberland Library; as recommend by our Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee at the March 12, 2010 meeting.

The location of the Port of Allyn drop box will be near the disabled parking spot, easily accessible by disabled persons via the ramp.

The location for the drive by box will be on the opposite side of the traffic island from the book drop in the Shelton Timberland Library parking lot.

Our grant was approved a few weeks ago giving us a small window to get the ballot box ordered and installed before ballots go out for the August 17th primary.

Karen asked the committee to give guidance on the height of the drive by drop box in the Shelton Timberland Library parking lot. The grant gives a height maximum for accessibility purposes of 48" but this is to ensure that persons in wheelchairs can access the box. As previously stated in the March meeting minutes, this box is intended for disabled persons who would like to remain in their cars to deposit their ballots. We were unable to locate any accessibility guidelines for drive by drop boxes and are concerned that 48" is too low for someone in an accessibility van to easily access it.

The committee felt that the drop box in the library parking lot was intended to be approached in a vehicle and should not be necessarily designed for accessibility from a wheelchair but instead be accessible from a vehicle. The committee asked that the Auditor's staff check the height of the slot on the official post office drop box located on 2nd street in Shelton and the slot for the book drop at the Shelton Timberland Library to get an appropriate height for our drop box.

Karen encouraged the members of the committee to use our Accessibility Voting Unit in the upcoming elections.

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.
Minutes submitted by Fina Dahman