

Minutes
Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee
September 8, 2022

People in Attendance

Paddy McGuire, *Mason County Auditor*

Marie Stevenson, *Mason County Elections Superintendent*

Susan Blankenship, *Assistant Election Administrator*

Kailey Chappell, *Elections Technician & Outreach*

Nichole Kerksieck, *United Way of Mason County*

Becky Frankeberger, *Citizen advocate for voters with disabilities*

John Piety, *Citizen*

Cheryl Williams, *Citizen*

Call to order: Paddy McGuire, Auditor called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves

Overview:

- Review of Agenda
 - Paddy reviewed the agenda and made sure everyone had a copy.
- Review of VAAC
 - Paddy gave an overview of the VAAC, its definition and purpose. He mentioned the VAAC Plan and how it's the guiding document for the committee and that its updated annually.

Official Business

- Review of Current VAAC Plan
 - Went over suggestions for plan updates from the previous minutes. The suggestions were to add a section with definitions of the acronyms used throughout the plan. The definitions were added to the proposed new plan.
 - Paddy read all proposed changes to the plan and asked if everyone was ok with the new plan and if we should vote to adopt it. John Piety motioned to vote to adopt the new proposed plan and Cheryl Williams seconded the motion. There were no objections and the proposed plan was adopted.

Old Business:

- Discuss Previous meeting
 - At the previous meeting it was proposed to start an Accessible Community Advisory Committee (ACAC). At the last meeting it was decided to not moved

forward with creating the new committee because the Auditor's Office could not financially support the requirements for this new committee. With that information Commissioner Trask was going to look into other community entities that would be able to take on the task of starting this committee for the community. There was no progress made on this due to Covid. After further discussion of what the VAAC is and entails everyone agreed that this should be brought back in front of the commissioners to see what we can do about getting this started. Paddy said he will schedule a time to go in front of the commissioners and reach out to the interested committee members with the time of the meeting so they could attend if they wanted to.

- We also discussed some suggestions from the previous meeting. The suggestions were to send out all minutes and agendas to members. Kailey informed everyone that minutes and agendas will be sent out to all members before and after each meeting. The other suggestion was extending voting hours, not just on election day. It was asked why we would extend voting hours and Paddy explained it would be so people have additional time to access the AVU, get a replacement ballot or register to vote. We discussed possibly having extended hours the Saturday before the election but it was brought up that it might not be worth it. The consideration was due to that there was not much participation the last time there was extended hours. It was asked why participation might have been low, the consensus was it probably was due to short notice given to the community and not advertised. It was suggested if we were to extend hours make sure it was advertised on social media, in the voters' pamphlet and maybe the newspaper. It was decided that the Auditor's Office would further review this and a decision on extending hours was not reached.

New Business:

- VAAC Information Card
 - Kailey presented a card that can be handed out at events or at places so more people will know what kind of accessibility options we have available. Everyone liked the card but it was suggested that there be a bigger format of the card since it was in small print. It was agreed upon a QR code would be added to the card so people could access a larger print version on their phone. It was also suggested that these be put at the library, the chamber of commerce and other places within the community. Nichole also offered to print some, to have at United Way as well as drop some off at other places in the community.

Meeting Adjourned: Adjourned at 3:01pm