

VAAC meeting June 16, 2009

In attendance: Denise and Burl Colley, Patty McDonald from the VAAC committee. Thurston County Auditor, Kim Wyman and the following Elections Division personnel: Lynnette Thornton, Sandy Baxter, Steve Homan, and Carol Peters.

Start time 6:00

Minutes from March 9, 2009 meeting accepted

HAVA (May 09) grant update:

Lynnette gave an update of the grant proposal. Patty moved that the HAVA grant be approved as an extension to the 2008 grant funding, if this was needed to ensure VAAC support for the grant. Patty suggested Steve send tonight's minutes with the VAAC's approval to SOS to show they were in agreement, even if they didn't respond to the email. This was seconded by Berl.

Outreach updates

Senior Newsletter

Sandy passed out the new Braille business cards to Denise and Berl. The information was confirmed by the Colley's. These cards provide another avenue of outreach to the blind community.

Berl Colley agreed to do a short 3 paragraph article for the Senior News outlining his personal experiences. Patty McDonald agreed to assist Berl with the article. Sandy Baxter will send information on deadlines and assist with editing, if needed.

Meetings

Berl says that the blind community is well informed so the question is to broaden our outreach to other disabled communities. Capitol City council meetings are good. Meetings at Panorma City are not as well received due to denial of loss of vision. Berl noted that when they have talked to Panorama City, the people who attended, who themselves had declining vision, wanted to know what they could do to help the Colley's not themselves. Denise mentioned it might be good to send out a "stock article" about the AutoMARK to various organizational newsletters, and other media. Kim is currently doing talks at various clubs and government groups throughout the county and she is also mentioning the AutoMARK at her talks. Berl and Lynnette also talked about increasing the PSA on the various radio stations around the County and use of free air time at TVW.

Thurston County WorkSource

Sandy brought up her meeting with Bonnie Ross at WorkSource in an effort to place an AutoMARK there due to the daily traffic and the large number of clients who are disabled using Worksource services. Sandy noted Bonnie Ross has since left and the new director, Jim Walker is new to his position. A meeting between Sandy and Jim is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15 to discuss placement of the AutoMARK at WorkSource during the General Election.

Voter Pamphlet

Lynnette noted the voter pamphlet was still going to be produced in ASL, Large Print and Audio to provide different accessibility formats for citizens with disabilities. Patty requested the pamphlet also be converted to Word so it would be available on the web in large print.

Patty also asked about having the pamphlet in Braille. Patty suggested the School for the Blind in Vancouver WA would be able to produce the pamphlet. It was suggested by Berl/Patty to check with Intercity Transit to determine the number of persons who requested Braille transit schedules to determine the number who might want a Braille voter pamphlet. Berl volunteered to ask Intercity Transit. Sandy will check with School of Blind about the cost of doing a pamphlet in Braille. Patty urged the Auditor's Office to have at least a few of the pamphlets available for immediate mailing upon request.

Other

Sandy shared email from Nick handy from OSOS about disabilities employees through DSHS to reimburse up to 90 day of work.

Patty question about construction at IT, yes it is downtown, look at Lacey IT center. Denise reminded that there is no room at the Lacey center for the Automark set up.

Berl we need to work out the outreach/AutoMark schedule with Council on the Blind. The next available date to bring the Automark is October 17. The ballots for the General Election will have been mailed to homes the day before. Berl and Sandy will be in contact on details. Denise noted it would be beneficial to both groups to have press releases on this event and to try to increase attendance the following: Berl -talk rambling jacks to give a free soda to anyone who votes, Dick would give us spot on KGY. Sandy will put on web.

Denise is concerned the committee is not growing. Sandy asked for ideas on what we can do. Sandy asked about doing a letter to other groups telling them about the VAAC and asking for their involvement. Sandy will draft a letter. Berl brought up veteran groups. Patty concurred this would be a good group to reach. – Sandy will work with Patty to get her contact list to get more membership. Berl and Denise talked in past using the WA talking book and brail library, new director get her to send out a mailing using her zip code mailing list.

The Yelm community was mentioned as a good area to recruit military members. Sandy talked about expanding the Roadshow to include Yelm and another over 55 communities by sending out a new letter and appointment cards to new locations. The meeting ended with a discussion about reaching out the various tribes such as Nisqually etc. if the tribes are amiable.

Adjourn 6:55 p.m.

