

Thurston County VAAC Meeting Notes

September 1, 2021, 12:30 pm via Zoom

Introductions and Announcements

Present from the Committee: Denise Colley, Larry Watkinson, Judy Oliver

Present from the Auditor's Office: Mary Hall, Diana Benson, Tillie Naputi-Pullar, Jamey Davidsmeyer, Cathleen Bright

New Business

- 1) New Location: Drive-Thru Voter Services & Accessible voting center – Mary
 - a) Elections has moved to 2400 Evergreen Park Drive SW (old TwinStar)
 - b) The county has purchased the BPC at Mottman
 - i) The plan is to move voter registration and voter services to that location and have a voting center
- 2) Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC) - Mary
 - a) We would like to expand this to become an ACAC so we can access grant funding
 - b) Larry Watkinson: I applaud the Auditor's office for doing it, Thurston County should have a disability advisory group that advises them.
 - c) Mary: This is a community effort
 - d) Larry Watkinson: Mine is the Department of Transportation including the ferry system. I've gone to small "kitchen cabinets" and have found good success with that because it's project oriented
 - e) Denise Colley: We actually had this conversation a couple years ago. At the time, the Governor's committee was overseeing the project. It never went anywhere. We knew that other counties had done it.
 - f) Tillie Naputi-Pullar: We are in our building 5 location. For the primary, we put in door stops and kept the doors open. Part of what we're trying to do is improve access, but since the location is temporary.
 - g) Larry Watkinson: the county doesn't have a choice. I grow impatient when counties and cities say they don't have the capacity.
 - h) Denise Colley: we need to focus on accessing the services. We have a much bigger problem that we need to deal with.
 - i) Mary Hall: I've run out of patience too. Commissioner Menser is on board, and I will reach out to Commissioners Edwards and Mejia.
 - j) Larry Watkinson: I'd be willing to approach the commissioners too.
 - k) Denise Colley: Can we get information about where to go to vote
 - l) Tillie Naputi-Pullar: We can bring our express vote machines to somebody who needed the extra help to be able to vote independently.

- 3) Membership Expansion - Jamey
 - a) I have sent some messages out. I was wondering if you had some suggestions of groups I could approach or individuals that might be interested.
 - b) Larry Watkinson: Even the pedestrian access group in Seattle is struggling to find members.
 - c) Denise Colley: I have a person that's interested in taking my place. I'm going to give her past minutes and past plans so she can see what the committee's been working on.
 - d) Larry Watkinson: Intercity Transit has had a fairly successful committee. There was a crisis after Initiative 695.
- 4) 2022 Meeting Dates – Jamey
 - a) Denise Colley: Zoom still works best for us
 - b) Jamey Davidsmeyer: I would like to have one meeting before the primary and one before the general election. I will send around some tentative dates as soon as I can.
- 5) 2021 Annual Plan Goals* - Jamey
 - a) Did you have a chance to look at the plan?
 - b) Denise Colley: Make sure your documents are text based documents
- 6) Drop Box location review and recommendation - Jamey
 - a) We have new drop boxes at the Lacey Library and at our Elections office.
 - i) Lacey Library will be open October 13 through November 1.
 - b) Larry Watkinson: I love my dropbox at the corner of 4th and Eastside.
 - c) Tillie Naputi-Pullar: we need to have the VAAC review the dropbox plan and provide feedback. We can send the document around and we'll incorporate that into our plan.
 - d) Will reply-all with comments.

Open Discussion

Larry Watkinson: When you start thinking about expanding the group, this time of day is probably not going to work for your members. A lot of folks who give their time don't have that flexibility. I suggest you survey what their time availability is.

Denise Colley: Did we have anybody use the express vote in the primary?

Jamey Davidsmeyer: We did not. The library should help.

*Plan document location:

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