

# Santa Cruz County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 19, 2015

10 a.m.

701 Ocean St. Basement – Cafeteria

## Minutes

In attendance: Lynn Stipes, Veronica Elsea, Brad Neily  
10:05am

- I. Introductions - Welcome to Brad Neily, Accessible Technology Initiative Program Manager at UCSC and new member of the County Commission on Disabilities.
  - a. Brad was raised in Santa Cruz and has been very active in accessibility issues since the 80s and 90s. He was a spokesperson for Vision Cruz, founded after the 1989 earthquake.
  - b. Veronica is part of the Pedestrian Safety Workgroup which is a subsidiary of the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee. She is also on the Metro Advisory Committee.
- II. 2015 Elections
  - a. February 24 – Measure N - CFD No. 2 (Lompico Water) bond. Approximately 700+ registered voters all mail ballot election.
  - b. June 2 – Special Election by property owners for the Pajaro Dunes Geological Hazard Abatement District. One candidate as of today.
- III. Polling Places
  - a. Polling place canvassing and resurveys  
Brad informed us that the Department of Justice is getting ready to revise ADA regulations which could have an impact on us. Brad mentioned that there was some confusion on the signage and configuration of the accessible parking at the polling site he worked at in November. Perhaps we could add an explanation or some other language to the voter information that we send out that would address why we set up the parking the way we do?
  - b. Site specific binder revamp project  
Jim Davies is working on the Polling place canvassing and resurveys and Site specific binder revamp projects. Lynn said that she knows he is interested and researching finding more electronic options for the information that is provided to each polling site.
  - c. Rides to the Polls – Michael Molesky was absent to present on this topic. Brad did suggest working with the Metro on this issue. He also suggested using the Metro as an outreach source for voter information. Have information available about voting to Metro to give to their clients when they come for their initial meeting to set up services. He also suggested Tom Reeve who used to be with the

Seniors Council as a resource. Brad will provide Lynn with contact information for him Tom.

IV. State VAAC

No official State VAAC has been established yet under Secretary of State Padilla

V. Future of California Elections Conference – Feb. 18, Sacramento

- A. Gail Pellerin and Fred Nisen will be on the panel  
“Expanding Participation for Voters with Disabilities.”
- B. Gail and Jim were both absent from today’s meeting  
because they were attending FOCE in Sacramento.

VI. Future Agenda Items –Other items discussed

Veronica would like to meet with Jim and Lynn to discuss the instructions given to the pollworkers for the audio ballot. She would like to try to streamline the voting process for audio ballot users. It still takes over 45 minutes to vote using our current equipment and instruction.

Veronica has concerns regarding the move toward all mail ballot elections. All mail ballot elections interfere with the right to vote independently and privately. Veronica mentioned that smartvoter.org used to be a resource for downloading a sample ballot, but they have “upgraded” their system and it is no longer compatible with the screen reader software. Is there any way we could get screen reader compatible sample ballots on our website? Brad would like to talk to someone here about upgrading our website to be more user friendly and accessible. He has access to resources to help us upgrade.

Adjourn: 11:09am

**Quarterly meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of each quarter.  
Please mark your calendars:**

Thursday, May 21, 2015  
Thursday, August 20, 2015  
Thursday, November 19, 2015