

Worcester Board of Election Commissioners

Monday, April 12, 2010

City Hall, Room 312

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Mary Anne Dube, Ana Rodriguez, John Stewart

The meeting was called to order at 5 pm by chairman John M. Stewart.

The first item of business was the annual organizational meeting and election of chair and secretary

After discussion, Mary Anne Dube was elected chair and John M. Stewart was elected secretary. Ms. Dube appointed Joseph McGowan to the position of vice-chair.

Old business

1. City Clerk David Rushford provided an update on the annual street listing. The vendor DLM was chosen to perform the work.
2. Mr. Rushford and Mr. Joshua Meduna presented a plan to provide web-based training modules to poll workers through a webpage, <http://www.worcesterma.gov/city-clerk/elections/poll-worker-training>, on the <http://www.worcesterma.gov> website. Mr. Stewart asked that the city clerk research what voting rights people with mental disabilities in Massachusetts have and that this information be integrated into any proposed pollworker training.
Later in the meeting the board was joined by Dawn Clark, chairperson of the Worcester Commission on Disabilities and Fran Manocchio, the Director of Human Rights & Disabilities in the Executive Office of the City Manager. Ms. Clark agreed that the combination of web-based training for all poll workers combined with a live training at city hall coordinated by the city clerk and the Executive Office of the City Manager would meet the goal of providing improved customer-focused sensitivity training to Worcester poll workers.
3. Mr. Stewart requested that the pollworker roster software be corrected so that each polling place has an equal number of Democratic and republican pollworker assignments, with the understanding that the Commissioners may need to appoint unenrolled voters or others to slots assigned to the two parties to fill all vacancies on election day.

4. The city clerk agreed to review the accessibility of polling places. The Massachusetts Office on Disability published a study in August, 2004, the Polling Place Accessibility Study. Ms. Clark described her role in compiling the data for the report. Ms. Manocchio offered the services of Mr. Kennedy from the Center for Living & Working, Inc. to assist in the review of the polling places. The following polling places were prioritized for site visits.

1-1, Unitarian Universalist Church hall, 90 Holden Street

6-4, Quinsigamond Village Neighborhood Center , 16
Greenwood Street

6-5, Greenwood Gardens , 337 Greenwood Street

10-1, Elm Park Tower , 425 Pleasant Street

10-3, Elm Park Tower , 425 Pleasant Street

8-3, St. Peter's Church gym, 929 Main Street

New business

There was no new business

The commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting

The next meeting will be May 3, 2010 at 5:00 PM.

Recorded and submitted by John M. Stewart, Board Secretary