

Minutes of Worcester Board of Election Commissioners Meeting, September 30, 2013

Call to order by Chair Goggins at 6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Chairperson John Goggins

Commissioner Mary Ann Dube

Commissioner David LaPierre

Commissioner Diane Mohieldin

Commissioner Robert Winant

Commissioners absent:

None

The first order of business was the acceptance of the minutes from the July 24, 2013 meeting. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

New Business:

The first order of new business was to draw the names for placement on the ballot for the November 5, 2013 Municipal Election. Names were drawn for ballot placement for the Mayor's contest, the City Council at Large and District contests and the School Committee contest.

Old Business:

City Clerk David Rushford provided an update on having Election Commission Office calls go to the Customer Service Center. He stated that the Customer Service Center is categorizing the calls by type, but that the call volume has been very low. He said that call reports would be available to the commissioners in the future.

The next item of business was to discuss the possible relocation of Ward 6 Precinct 4 to the Hogan Center at Holy Cross. The City Clerk reported that there are complaints about the current location in terms of accessibility. He indicated that Holy Cross showed them a number of rooms available for voting and that they were eager to work something out. Holy Cross offered to reserve parking spaces for voters and poll workers. The City Clerk asked the commissioners to authorize pursuit of this location.

Chairman Goggins asked if the District Councilor was in favor of this precinct change and the City Clerk stated he gave a "thumbs up" for the relocation. Commissioner LaPierre asked if there was public transportation available to the location. The City Clerk stated there was not.

Commissioner Dube asked if the City Clerk could contact the RTA about adjusting the route on Election Day. The City Clerk pointed out that bus service would not serve residents within the precinct boundary even with a route change as the bus line originates outside of the precinct.

Commissioner Winant raised a concern about signage and that the campus could be confusing to navigate for voters. The City Clerk said there would be signage placed at multiple entrances to the campus and within the campus and notices mailed to voters would include a map and directions.

Chairman Goggins asked that this precinct change issue be put on the agenda for the next meeting and that the public be notified that there would be an open discussion at the next meeting so residents could be heard on the matter.

The next item for discussion was a review of the flow chart that is incorporated in the poll worker handbook. Commissioner Mohieldin raised concerns that poll workers still struggled with the inactive voter and provisional voter processes at some locations despite the flow chart and she invited ideas to improve the chart, possibly making it easier to read. The City Clerk suggested that the flow chart be blown up and used as the blue print for training the poll workers in the upcoming sessions scheduled just prior to the November election.

Discussion regarding topics for the upcoming poll worker training was next on the agenda. Commissioner Mohieldin asked that training include a review of the contents of the supply bag. Commissioner Dube suggested providing a list of items contained in the supply bag. The City Clerk said they could convert their own inventory checklist in to a list for the poll workers to review.

Final item was an update from the City Clerk regarding the Student Poll Worker program. The City Clerk stated that 58 student names had been forwarded to them from 6 schools and that the City Clerk would be contacting the schools to arrange for permission slips to be completed and to schedule training in small groups. The students will be working at the check-in tables at the polling locations.

Chairman Goggins wished to recognize Niko Vangjeli and his voter registration efforts.

Next Meeting Date: November 13, 2013

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30PM