

Minutes of Worcester Board of Election Commissioners meeting December 4, 2013

Call to order by Vice Chairman Winant 6:00pm
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Commissioners present:
Commissioner Mary Anne Dube
Commissioner Diane Mohieldin
Vice Chairman Robert Winant

Commissioners absent:
Chairman John Goggins
Commissioner David Lapierre

Acceptance of the Minutes of the September 30, 2013 Meeting

Hearing Concerning Moving Polling Location for Ward 6 Precinct 4

Commissioners discussed the possibility of relocating the polling location for Ward 6 Precinct 4 from the Quinsigamond Village Neighborhood Center at 16 Greenwood Street to the Hogan Campus Center at Holy Cross College at 1 College Street.

Concerns raised by commissioners regarding the Hogan Center location were:

- Poor visibility of the entrance to the campus when vehicles were parked along College Street
- Lack of directions to the Hogan Center from the entrances to the college
- Difficulty for some individuals parking on the sloped area adjacent to the Hogan Center
- Crowded parking conditions at the Hogan Center
- Stairs at the entrance to the Hogan Center
- Steep terrain of College Street a possible impediment in bad weather
- Lack of a city bus route to bring passengers to or near the Hogan Center from other parts of the Precinct
- Letter from District Councilor opposing this move and requesting that the Election Commission consider other locations in the Precinct including Bethlehem Covenant Church.

Joshua Meduna stated that signage would be provided at all entrances on election days and that voters would be sent multiple notices with specific directions on how to get to the polling location. He also indicated that there was a proposal on the table to limit the on-street parking on College Street.

Commissioner Dube stated that she was assured that Holy Cross campus police would be making sure parking spaces were available for voters throughout the day.

Vice Chairman Winant invited the public to comment:

Worcester resident Ronald Chiras stated that he did not believe most voters were aware that this hearing was taking place. He believes that other places should be considered for possible polling locations. He stated that the Hart Center on the college campus would be a better choice than the Hogan Center as the terrain is flat and the handicap parking spaces are closer to the building and there are not stairs. For the community three-decker neighborhoods they would no longer be able to walk to the polling location if it was at the college and the college entrance at McKeon Road is confusing. He asked that other locations be considered.

Worcester resident Scott Ricker was concerned that even though there was a wheelchair lift at the location that the stairs would still be an impediment. He also stated that he did not have time to look at the location before the hearing. He asked that the Election Commission postpone the hearing until the next meeting so he would have time to review the location.

Worcester Rachel Bromage said that the Hogan Center is a very crowded location and that she has had to park up the hill toward the Hart Center when visiting the location. She also stated that the lift at the location was not reliable. She felt the location would not be ideal and asked the Election Commission to consider other locations.

Commissioners asked Joshua Meduna questions regarding the scheduling of notices and mailings regarding polling location changes and he explained the cycle of mailings and notices.

Vice Chairman Winant motioned to table a vote on moving the polling location until the next meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Dube requested that the Bethlehem Covenant Church be visited prior to the next meeting.

New Business:

Setting a Hearing Date for Moving Polling Location for Ward 3 Precinct 2

Vice Chairman Bob Winant motioned to schedule public hearing for this polling location change and to continue the hearing on the Ward 6 Precinct 4 change to

the next Board of Election Commissioners meeting. Meeting date set for January 22, 2014 at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm