

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**JULY 26, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Deborah Groat at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Deborah Groat, Henk Berbee EXCUSED: Tracy Richardson

Others Present: Ryan Horns - Marysville Journal Tribune.

The only agenda item was consideration of Section 1143.10, Political Signs, of the City of Marysville Planning and Zoning Code.

Groat gave a brief background based on her conversations with Barb McCoy, Tim Aslaner, and both Bill McCarty and Ameena Birchfield of the Union County Board of Elections. Significant information:

1. In an election, absentee ballots can be accepted up to 35 days before the election.
2. Recent state law has changed to allow voting by “absentee ballot” for any citizen for any reason.
3. Any limitation of timing for display of political signage is unenforceable, making 1143.10 (a) unenforceable. A short discussion ensued about these facts.

Groat read an e-mail from absent committee member Tracy Richardson describing her position.

Berbee suggested that since the “35 day” portion of the state law is still under consideration, we may decide to reword 1143.10 (a) so that it is in compliance with state law, regardless of the final wording of when absentee ballots will be acceptable. Berbee and Groat agreed that, in principle, maintaining a preference or suggestion of time limits concerning signage is an appropriate inclusion in the current legislation, as in 1143.10 (a), but should be changed; Berbee suggested the change include 10 days before absentee ballot while Richardson’s e-mail suggested the change include a week before absentee ballot. Current language stipulates eighteen days

before the election as a suggested time frame for acceptable display.

Groat also suggested that 1143.10 (g) be amended to reflect removing from enforcement 1143.10 (a). The consensus was that this will be a probable amendment.

Groat also requested that the Clerk of Council send minutes of this and the

August meeting to Planning Commission so they can be fully informed of this committee's request to amend 1143.10 when it is made.

Further discussion will continue at the next meeting, 23 August 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment was at 6:20 p.m.