

**MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
AUGUST 24, 2021 – 5:30PM**

CALLED TO ORDER BY: The meeting, being held electronically, was called to order by Chair Karen Bartos at 5:36pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Bartos
Susie Brown
Rose Christoph
Aimee Ergas
Lauri Thornhill
Dawn Raymond

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dennis Hubbard and John Lawler

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Pam Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Ergas, support by Brown to approve the agenda as published.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Christoph, support by Brown, to approve the minutes from May 25, 2021 as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEMBERSHIP:

Clerk Smith mentioned that new member Dawn Raymond was appointed last night at the City Council meeting and potential member Marc Thomas was present at the meeting this evening. Chair Bartos welcomed member Raymond and Mr. Thomas to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Monthly Committee Bulletin

The following schedule was suggested:

Article on working the Election – September (already submitted by Thornhill)

Importance of Voting – October (Raymond to get information)

Election Results - mid-November/December (Clerk Smith would provide)

Clerk's Office – January (Bartos)

b. School project focusing on voting/civics

c. Voter Registration Drives/homeless population

d. Resuming mock elections at high schools for 2022

The above three topics were discussed together. Clerk Smith stated that she reached out to Diane Bauman at Farmington Public Schools about the possibility of coordinating voting efforts with the schools and students and is waiting to hear back. She was not certain that persons from outside would be allowed in the schools but perhaps they could coordinate with students.

The group discussed that many of these efforts may need to be put off until 2022 due to the pandemic.

Member Christoph stated that she was able to get in touch with the schools regarding the homeless population and a contact. It was determined that she would distribute the committee's information brochure to her contact.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Candidate Debates

Clerk Smith mentioned that COHA typically holds candidate forums for local elections and sometimes members of the committee would assist with that function.

The students also would hold a candidate forum in the past but again this is something that maybe could be revisited in future years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments

MEMBER/LIAISON COMMENTS:

Member Ergas mentioned a national program for high school registrations and another initiative Post Cards for Democracy that was hosting a zoom call and she asked about sitting in.

The members indicated that they were already working with the schools on registration drives that they hold each year and are quite successful. Clerk Smith stated that the committee should not be participating or supporting an initiative of another organization in case they are party driven; but as an individual any member may sit in on those efforts.

Chair Bartos suggested a vote to remove John Lawler as a member since he has not attended for several meetings. Clerk Smith stated that she thought perhaps he had moved as he mentioned that earlier in the year.

MOTION by Thornhill, support by Ergas, to remove John Lawler as a member from the committee due to his attendance. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was questioned if the committee could remove him or if the Mayor had to as she made the appointment. Clerk Smith was going to review the ordinance as to the correct process and report back to the committee.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Thornhill, supported by Christoph, to adjourn the meeting at 6:32pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.