

MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
MAY 28, 2019 – 5:30PM
CITY HALL – FOUNTAIN VIEW ROOM
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS MI

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Christoph at 5:35pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bartos, Carney (Alternate member), Christoph, Ergas, Lawler, Pitchford, Seelye and Simonenko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Haynes, Hubbard, Kendzierski and Thornhill

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Lerner, City Council Liaison and Pam Smith, City Clerk/Staff Liaison

MEMBERSHIP:

The Committee welcomed new member Jeanette Carney.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Seelye, support by Simonenko, to approve the agenda as published.
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice Chair Christoph noted that she should be shown in the minutes as present and not absent.

MOTION by Seelye, support by Bartos, to approve the minutes of April 23, 2019 as amended.
Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2019 Goals

Clerk Smith noted that Chair Hubbard had asked that the goals are part of every agenda so that the committee can review and make sure they are staying on task. The goals include:

- Educating the voters on the changes brought about by Proposal 3
- Creating short video clip to post to social media and list serve on changes brought about by Proposal 3
- Educating the local high school students on the importance of voting
- Continuation of Voter Registration Drives in the high schools
- Work with the high school on holding mock elections for the students

Voter Registration Drives update

Clerk Smith stated that the committee members along with her staff held voter registration drives at both Harrison and North Farmington and registered 131 students overall. It was mentioned that the City of Farmington hosts a voter registration drive at Farmington High School and that Harrison High School would be closing as of the end of the school year this year.

Committee members commented on the positive experience at the schools and questions students had.

Council Liaison Lerner indicated that the schools starting next year will be having civics class every year and that teacher would be the person to contact once appointed for future voter registration drives, mock elections, etc.

Founders Parade – Saturday, July 20th

Clerk Smith stated that the committee had plenty of give-a-ways from last year due to the poor weather and that she would provide updated brochures to distribute but that the committee had some money left in their budget and could order new shirts since they have several new members and have not done so in a while. She added that more information on the committee's location in the parade, time, etc would be sent out as soon as she received that from the Founders Festival Committee.

The committee members concurred with ordering new shirts and that the previous design as presented by the City Clerk was good. It was suggested that the word VOTE is more prominent if possible.

NEW BUSINESS

Absentee applications permanent list

Clerk Smith explained in conjunction with the flyers that the committee has been distributing on the new laws and ways to get on the permanent absent voter list, her office is doing a mailing to all voters not currently on the permanent list to let them know of their right to receive an absent voter ballot for every election and explaining how to get on the permanent list. Her office is doing this over the next several months and preparing for 2020 so that the Clerk's Office will hopefully have a better idea of how many voters intend to vote by absentee ballot.

100th Anniversary of Michigan's ratification of 19th Amendment-Women's Right to Vote – June 10th

Clerk Smith distributed a copy of a resolution submitted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners that they were suggesting municipalities to consider. She stated that the Mayor has approved putting a proclamation on the City Council agenda for the June 10, 2019 meeting similar to what was provided.

MY VOTE COUNTS/SOCIAL MEDIA SHORT VIDEOS:

Potential timely topics included Mayor and City Council roles in city government and the Importance of Voting in local Elections that Member Lawler had suggested.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments at this time.

MEMBER/LIAISON COMMENTS:

Member Bartos suggested other venue for voter registration drives and distributing information. She suggested homeowner association meetings. Other suggestions were senior facilities and apartment complexes. Clerk Smith would provide a list of senior facilities to members.

Member Ergas indicated that she was able to obtain "I Will Vote" 2020 stickers for free that she will hold until next year for distribution.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Bartos, support by Lawler, to adjourn the meeting at 6:28pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes drafted by: Clerk Smith