

Meeting Minutes
Committee to Increase Voter Participation
City of Farmington Hills
August 27, 2024
City Hall-Viewpoint Room
31555 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Bartos at 5:40 p.m.

PRESENT: Karen Bartos, Jackie Boleware (Council Liaison), Amiee Ergas, Catherine Brown, Dr. Patricia Coleman-Burns, Dawn Raymond, Rose Christoph, Laureen Thornhill, Susan Brown, Ron Godath (COHA President-Guest)

ABSENT: Thomas Engle, Adam Harrell, Ashley Hopper, Dennis Hubbard, Carly Lindahl, Majorie Whittemore

Approval of Agenda

Agenda was amended to add item 5c-Review of Strategic Plan under Old Business and add item 6c-Request for Voting Flyers by Chamber of Commerce under New Business. Motion was made by A. Ergas, and Seconded by R. Christoph to approve agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes were provided for June 25, 2024 and therefore, not approved.

Old Business

Newsletter and PSA Video Updates. Dawn has not yet submitted a newsletter. Q&A under new business may provide more newsletter topics. There are no PSA Video Updates from the City Communications Department. Will need to contact them through Carly Lindahl for an updated status.

Event Updates - COHA Candidate Forum. COHA is having two candidate forums. The first is on September 17, 2024 and will be for Oakland County District Commissioner candidates (4) and State Legislature House candidates (7). The second is on September 24, 2024 and will be for Farmington Hills School Board candidates. Both forums will be from 7-9 PM and will follow the same format. COHA asked to volunteers from FHCTIVP members to assist with the forums. A sign-up sheet was passed around for this purpose.

Strategic Plan Review. The President and committee members reviewed the Strategic Plan and made updates and discussed additional outreach. The plan will be updated with the changes and sent out by Laureen Thornhill.

New Business

Q&A - Aimee Ergas. Aimee shared some questions that she and Dr. Coleman-Burns had come up with while working at the AV counting Board. Carly provided detailed answers and it was suggested that some of the Q&A's might make good newsletter topics. The following were discussed: How the clerk's office validates signatures; what the budget is and who pays for elections; how videos are processed; and translation issues with the instructions. Aimee said she would forward the e-mail she received from Carly to the other committee members.

Hillside Elementary Event - Karen Bartos. Karen shared a letter from Hillside Elementary detailing a community enriching event they are holding on September 11, 2024 from 5-8 pm. The letter invited us to participate and share our resources with the community. Dawn Raymond volunteered to host a table with voter resources at the event and Susie Brown-Simoneneko will also participate.

Chamber of Commerce - Jackie Boleware. The Chamber of Commerce has about 70 members in the community. They have asked for access to voter literature. After discussion it was suggested that Susan Arliss be contacted by Carly and electronic versions of the voter flyer and brochure be sent to her. Carly would ask that the Chamber of Commerce members who want this material in hard copy send an e-mail requesting the number wanted, and when the member could pick them up from City Hall.

Public Comments - There were no public comments

Member/Liaison Comments

Committee members requested that the PDF versions of the Voter Information be emailed to them also.

Karen Bartos read a letter dated 1981 from her father resigning from the Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation that she found while going through his belongings. She had no idea he had been a member of this same committee.

A motion for adjournment was made by A. Ergas and seconded by R. Christoph. Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.