

**MEETING MINUTES  
COMMITTEE TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
FEBRUARY 28, 2023—5:30 PM  
CITY HALL—VIEWPOINT ROOM  
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS MI**

**CALLED TO ORDER BY:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Dennis Hubbard at 5:31 p.m.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ashley Riley  
Marjorie Whittemore

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Bartos, support by Christoph, to approve the agenda as published.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Brown to approve the minutes from January 31, 2023, with one correction, that Susie Brown was present at that meeting. Support by Bartos.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**REVIEW OF REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN**

- Bartos pointed out that two of the bullet points on the second page of the plan refer to Proposal 3. That should be Proposal 2.
- Discussion of ballot drop boxes in Farmington Hills. Hubbard noted that some voters are not clear that only Farmington Hills residents can put their ballots in F.H. drop boxes, not residents of Farmington, for example, and vice versa. Questions for the clerk: Can clerks send ballots to the correct city if they are put in the wrong drop box or are ballots discarded? Can the clerk put notices on drop boxes to alert voters?
- Hubbard pointed out currently we don't know when the 2024 primary will be. Much of our strategic planning will depend on this. Bartos suggested that for now our communications deal with topics that don't depend on knowing the 2024 dates.
- Discussion of action items on the strategic plan. Hubbard reports that we have reached out to the F.H. Communications Department. They are open to our ideas and ready to assist us. Ergas suggested that the new Communication Director be invited to our April 25 meeting, to introduce our plans and see how the city communications can partner with us.
- Hubbard suggested we develop a general framework for what we want to cover in communications. Topics to develop for communications: the election process, especially any changes from Proposal 2 (perhaps more than one video on this); election integrity; recruitment; registration. Raymond agreed to work up an outline. Bartos suggested a series of 3 to 4 short videos over a year or so.
  
- General discussion of reaching out to young voters. How to we contact the high schools? Directly to students (for example NHS) or the AV/TV departments to help produce communications. Thornhill

contact Whittemore re contacts at NFHS. Bartos will reach out to former member Marc Thomas to get ideas about contacts at OCC.

- There was discussion of attracting more election workers, especially young people.
- Hubbard will format a sample paper newsletter that can be flexible for updating and reuse.
- Bartos will get an update from League of Women Voters re their presentation to high schools on registration. Is it being used? Hubbard suggested we can be a F.H. partner for the Oakland County LWV. It may be possible to get back into schools next fall. Hubbard said the fire department is doing presentations; perhaps we can piggyback.
- Christoph continuing to work on outreach to homeless.
- Issue of reaching out to apartment residents was discussed. What is best way to reach out? Can we get contacts of apartment managers or leasing offices to arrange communications to tenants? If apartments have website/email communications to tenants, perhaps we can add messages. Does the clerk or the city have a list of apartments?
- Continuing contacts with Chamber of Commerce and COHA was mentioned by Hubbard and Bartos.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Need a new article for city communications. First, just basic info that is known currently (in light of changes eventually coming from Lansing), such as election dates, registration dates and procedures. Ergas volunteered to work on this. Bartos will find specific explanations of new permanent ballot list and permanent application list. That can be a near future topic.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

**MEMBER/LIAISON COMMENTS:** There were no comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Ergas, supported by Thornhill, to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting: April 25. No meeting in March.

Submitted by Aimee Ergas, Committee Secretary