

**MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
MAY 25, 2021 – 5:30PM**

CALLED TO ORDER BY: The meeting, being held electronically, was called to order by Chair Karen Bartos at 5:32pm.

During roll call members were asked to state the city and state from which they were attending the meeting remotely.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Bartos, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Susie Brown, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Rose Christoph, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Aimee Ergas, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Dennis Hubbard, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Lauri Thornhill, Charlevoix, Michigan

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Lawler

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Pam Smith and City Council Liaison Jackie Boleware

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chair Bartos noted that the minutes being approved on the agenda should reflect March 23, 2021 and not February. She also suggested adding discussion on the homeless population under item 5c.

MOTION by Thornhill, support by Brown to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARTOS, BROWN, CHRISTOPH, ERGAS, HUBBARD AND THORNHILL

Nays: NONE

Absent: LAWLER

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Ergas, support by Christoph, to approve the minutes from March 23, 2021 as submitted.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARTOS, BROWN, CHRISTOPH, ERGAS, HUBBARD AND THORNHILL

Nays: NONE

Absent: LAWLER

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Monthly Committee Bulletin

Clerk Smith noted that member Thornhill had submitted an article for April but she was hoping to utilize that one closer to the Election as it pertained to her experience as a worker and encouraged other to get involved.

Members discussed topics for the upcoming bulletins, including voting absentee and the security of the election process. Chair Bartos said she would forward an article on voting absentee for the month of June.

b. School project focusing on voting/civics

c. Voter Registration Drives/homeless population

Discussion was held on voter registration drives and getting flyers to the schools as previously mentioned to send out with student information about how to register to vote.

Clerks Smith mentioned that she spoke with staff about the homeless population and will get that contact information to send to member Christoph to follow up. Member Christoph also mentioned she will contact the schools as well as they work with organizations as well for homeless students.

Chair Bartos and Member Ergas will contact the school representative to inquire about a contest or project with regard to voting. Chair Smith has a student that may want to be involved.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of Election Bills Introduced by both the House and Senate

Clerk Smith reviewed various Bills introduced at the House and Senate related to Elections and the position taken by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

b. Resuming mock elections at high schools for 2022

The committee would like to resume the mock elections for 2022 Elections.

Discussion was held on the Founders Festival and opportunity for distributing election information during the parade. Clerk Smith said she would find out if it is scheduled to take place this year.

Council liaison Boleware mentioned that the schools are having a robust summer school program for grades 6-12 that may offer another opportunity to register students.

c. Resuming in-person meetings

Clerk Smith stated that the city is allowing boards/commissions to meet in person as of June; however, many may wish to wait until July when more restrictions are lifted by the State. The committee felt they should meet in August and that this meeting could be in person.

MOTION by Brown, second by Hubbard, to approving meeting on August 24th in person.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARTOS, BROWN, CHRISTOPH, ERGAS, HUBBARD AND THORNHILL

Nays: NONE

Absent: LAWLER

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments

MEMBER/LIAISON COMMENTS: No further member comments

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Hubbard, supported by Christoph, to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: BARTOS, BROWN, CHRISTOPH, ERGAS, HUBBARD AND THORNHILL

Nays: NONE

Absent: LAWLER

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.