

Meeting Minutes
Committee to Increase Voter Participation
City of Farmington Hills
March 26, 2024 – 5:30pm
City Hall-Viewpoint Room
31555 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills MI

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Bartos at 5:31pm.

Members Present: Karen Bartos
Catherine Brown
Patricia Coleman-Burns
Aimee Ergas
Adam Harrell
Dawn Raymond
Lauri Thornhill
Marjorie Whittemore

Members Absent: Susie Brown
Rose Christoph
Thomas Engle
Dennis Hubbard

Others Present: City Clerk Carly Lindahl
Deputy City Clerk Ashley Hopper

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Whittemore, support by Thornhill, to approve agenda as amended with addition of item 1A. Old Business: Review of Strategic Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ergas, support by Coleman-Burns, to approve the minutes January 23, 2024, as amended with minor revisions.

Motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of COHA President Ron Gadoth

Vice President Thornhill introduced Ron Gadoth, president of COHA.

Old Business

Review of strategic plan

Discussion was held on voter registration drives at the high schools. There was a consensus that they want to hold a registration before the seniors leave in May and to include information on address changes with seniors going off to college. Member Whittemore discussed the importance of educating voters on election security.

Clerk Lindahl noted that she has a meeting set up with the Communications Department to look at option on coordinating efforts with this committee.

New Business

1. Clerk update on Presidential Primary election

Clerk Lindahl gave a summary of the presidential primary election, reported on drop box statistics and provided voter turnout figures by precinct handouts.

2. Newsletter

Member Raymond agreed to write excerpts regarding Early Voting and the importance of turning in Absent Voter Ballots on time/early for the next two newsletters.

3. PSA video clips

Member Harrell agreed to be the face of the video clips.

4. Parade theme/t-shirts/giveaways

President Bartos presented idea of "VOTE" in different languages, possibly five. Committee is in need of a bigger vehicle so more people can ride in it.

5. Potential new members

Secretary Ergas introduced two students from North Farmington High School. Discussed ways to reach the high school population. Ideas from the students included having a presenter or voter registration drive during independent study time/workshops, in Government/Civics classes and to possibly put something in their school newsletter. President Bartos will contact the schools.

6. Collaboration with COHA

Ron Gadoth gave a brief description of what COHA does and offered to include voter information in his monthly emails. Vice President Thornhill will coordinate with Mr. Gadoth to get the information out. Next COHA meeting is May 21, 2024 at City Hall Council Chambers. Mr. Gadoth will allow a quick explanation of the information that will be emailed to COHA members.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Member Comments

- Asked Deputy Clerk to provide committee with PDF of voter handout material to distribute to COHA
- Asked Clerk to discuss the option of printing cards to display at local businesses with QR code and short message with the Communications Department

Adjournment

Motion by Whittemore, support by Ergas to adjourn the meeting at 6:58pm.

Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting: April 23, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, City Clerk