

**MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
FEBRUARY 22, 2022 2021 – 5:30PM
CITY HALL – FOUNTAIN VIEW ROOM
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS MI**

CALLED TO ORDER BY: The meeting was called to order by Chair Marc Thomas at 5:30pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Bartos
Rose Christoph
Aimee Ergas
Dennis Hubbard
Dawn Raymond
Ashley Riley
Marc Thomas
Lauri Thornhill

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susie Brown
Marjorie Whittemore

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Pam Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Bartos, support by Ergas, to approve the agenda as published

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Bartos, support by Thornhill, to approve the minutes from November 23, 2021 minutes as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-1(Riley abstained).

MEMBERSHIP:

Newly appointed member Ashley Riley was present at the meeting and all members introduced themselves.

Clerk Smith noted that Marjorie Whittemore had emailed to say she would be absent this meeting but planned to attend next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Monthly Bulletins

Monthly topics were adjusted as follows:

March – Democracy and Voting. The committee discussed and agreed upon a few language changes. Clerk Smith would be sending to the website for posting for March.

Member Bartos stated that she had already sent an article on Voter ID requirements to the City Clerk for next month. As the articles were a month behind, Clerk Smith suggested that

this topic may wait until May and perhaps redistricting as previously discussed by the committee would be timely for April. Member Raymond volunteered for this article. Future articles discussed included voter ID requirements and election workers.

b. COHA Outreach

The committee discussed sending a letter to COHA regarding how to access election information and to include the election brochure prepared by the City Clerk's Office each year. Clerk Smith would draft a letter to COHA for signature by Chair Thomas to be sent out prior to the next meeting. The Clerk's Office would also send to individual HOA Presidents on file with the Clerk's Office.

c. Voter Registration Drives

Other outreach efforts discussed included distribution of information to CARES, apartment complexes, on-line, colleges, via postcards, table at the HAWK once a month closer to the elections. Member Christoph agreed to contact Todd Lipa of CARES. Clerk Smith was to contact Director Schnackel regarding information at the HAWK.

Chair Thomas commented that the discussion was a good outline for voter outreach plan going forward. Members mentioned that they had established goals for the year in the past and that those should be reviewed. Chair Thomas agreed and suggested that the committee discuss clear goals and a focus going forward so they are not side-tracked with too many options.

Chair Thomas asked that the COHA letter is put on the next agenda under Old Business for follow-up.

d. Initiative petition language approved by the State.

City Clerk Smith mentioned that several petitions received approval as to the language by the State and would be circulating. She briefly discussed a couple of the petitions and stance that the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks have taken on a few and that this was for information only for the members.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Letters to the schools encouraging student voter registration.

Member Bartos confirmed that the joint letter of Clerk Smith and Clerk Mullison of Farmington had been distributed to the various schools principals encouraging student voter registration and allowing the League of Women Voters to share their information with the schools.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments

MEMBER/LIAISON COMMENTS: There were no member or liaison comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Hubbard, supported by Bartos, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pam Smith, City Clerk
City of Farmington Hills