

**MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
MAY 24 – 5:30PM
CITY HALL – FOUNTAIN VIEW ROOM
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS MI**

CALLED TO ORDER BY: Chair Kendzierski at 5:35pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christoph, Haynes, Hubbard, Jackson, Kendzierski and Seelye

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greening and Pitchford

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Smith and Council Member Liaison Lerner

#	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION SUMMARY/PERTINENT INFO	FORMAL MOTIONS:
3	APPROVAL OF AGENDA May 24, 2016		MOTION BY: JACKSON SUPPORT BY: HAYNES To approve the agenda as published. MOTION CARRIED: UNANIMOUSLY
4	APPROVAL OF MINUTES January 26, 2016	No Changes	MOTION BY: HAYNES SUPPORT BY: CHRISTOPH To approve the January 26, 2016 minutes as submitted. MOTION CARRIED: UNANIMOUSLY
5	AGENDA ITEM: NEW BUSINESS	<p style="text-align:center">a. Precinct Changes for August 2, 2016 Election</p> <p>City Clerk Smith reviewed the Precinct Changes for the August 2nd Election due to renovations taking place at various school buildings over the summer. She noted that the changes were approved by the Election Commission and City Council and postcards were sent to all affected voters.</p> <p style="text-align:center">b. Dissolution of SWOCC</p> <p>Clerk Smith explained that the SWOCC Board has dissolved and with that the building is going to be sold. City Employees who operated the video division for the City are now working out of the Mercy Center located at the back of the Costick Center and that is most likely where Committee Members would tape future My Vote Count shows. Clerk Smith mentioned that staff indicated they could also come to City Hall to tape some of these segments.</p>	

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6	<p>AGENDA ITEM:</p> <p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	<p>c. Harrison High School Voter Registration Drive – April 27th Clerk Smith noted that she would discuss this under unfinished business with North Farmington’s voter registration drive information as both drives have now taken place.</p> <p>d. Founders Festival Participation Chair Kendzierski inquired who from the Committee would be participating in the parade. Members Hubbard, Christoph and Kendzierski and Clerk Smith will be participating. Member Hubbard stated that he would have a few family helpers as well.</p> <p>Clerk Smith noted that the parade was Saturday, July 16th at 10am and the them is Disco.</p> <p>Chair Kendzierski requested that flyers with the word VOTE on them be purchased – same as they had last year as well as give-a-way bags for election brochures and information.</p> <p>e. Other events/opportunities to distribute flyers Clerk Smith stated that she felt there were other opportunities in which to distribute Election brochures and information such as the Farmers Market, to area senior or apartment complexes, etc.</p> <p>Member Christoph stated that she would inquire at the Farmers Market about having material at the community table.</p>	
7	<p>AGENDA ITEM:</p> <p>OLD BUSINESS</p>	<p>a. North Farmington High School and Harrison High School Voter Registration Drives. Clerk Smith stated that with the help of some students in the high schools, they had their largest voter registration turn-out registering 179 students from North Farmington and approximately 75 Harrison High School.</p> <p>b. Newspaper Articles on voting-informational pieces Clerk Smith stated that she and Chair Kendzierski were thinking of this as an opportunity to have informational segments on upcoming Election information or “Did you Know . . .” type articles to</p>	<p>MOTION BY: SUPPORT BY:</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED:</p>

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		<p>get information out to voters in a positive light and at the same time encourage voter participation.</p> <p>Council Liaison Lerner suggested that each member write up a short “Did You Know” paragraph and send that to Clerk Smith within the next week to review and distribute to the paper as needed in the Committee’s name.</p> <p>c. New Election Equipment Clerk Smith stated that new Election Equipment will be rolled out State-Wide in 2017. She mentioned that there is some federal funding for this but that local funding may also be required.</p> <p>Clerk Smith stated that the current equipment was old and starting to fail. The purchase of new equipment was a state-wide mandated purchase and the State currently has received RFP’s from approximately 4 different vendors that are under review.</p>	
8	<p>AGENDA ITEM:</p> <p>MY VOTE COUNTS - PROGRAM IDEAS</p>	<p>a. General Election info – dates and deadlines for August and November Election.</p> <p>b. Elimination of Straight party ticket for November Election</p> <p>c. History of Voting Rights</p> <p>Clerk Smith stated that she had taped voice overs for the past May Election and regarding the upcoming Precinct changes for August. The above were other potential program ideas.</p> <p>Clerk Smith explained that the legislation has voted to eliminate the straight party ticket from the November ballot, which would require all voters to vote in each office separately on the ballot. Clerks believe that this will cause longer lines in the precincts in November and want to get more information out about the convenience of absentee voting for those voters who may be eligible. She distributed a flyer to the group that could be shared and distributed at the events and locations mentioned above. She stated that this flyer and a 2016 Election Brochure has been prepared for distribution.</p> <p>She suggested also getting this information out to the Homeowner’s Associations. Member Seelye requested that Clerk Smith send the information to him electronically to send out to</p>	

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		<p>the homeowner's Associations.</p> <p>Member Kendzierski stated that she could distribute those to various locations. Member Hubbard was going to share through social media and Member Christoph reiterated that she would check into having those available at the Farmers Market.</p> <p>Member Kerry stated that he would prepare something on the history of voting rights to send on to the other Committee Members for review. He volunteered to do a program regarding the August and November Election information.</p> <p>Clerk Smith will contact the Video Division to schedule a taping.</p>	
9	AGENDA ITEM: COHA	Member Seelye indicated that the candidate's forum is scheduled for September 27, 2016.	
10	PUBLIC COMMENTS	<p>There were no public comments</p> <p>Member Jackson inquired about the possibility of issuing ballots at events. Clerk Smith discussed when ballots are available and stated that this has not been done, but she would look into whether the state would allow this and also if it would be possible to have a remote computer, etc. with the IT Department.</p> <p>Clerk Smith mentioned that City Council was conducting an overview of all boards and commissions and reviewing those that can't get a quorum and trying to standardize some of the requirements as far as members, etc. She commented that this Committee has had a problem getting a quorum in past months and while it doesn't make sense to combine this Committee with another, that perhaps there should be fewer meetings a year or they may need to limit their activities to those currently being done; but there needs to be more participation from the members for activities and attendance at the meetings.</p>	
	ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.	<p>MOTION BY: HUBBARD SUPPORT BY: SEELYE To adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED: UNANIMOUSLY</p>

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	MINUTES PREPARED BY	Carly Hotchkiss, Deputy City Clerk	