

**MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
SEPTEMBER 28, 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 Karen Bartos at 5:32pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Bartos
Susie Brown
Rose Christoph
Lauri Thornhill
Dawn Raymond
Marc Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT: Aimee Ergas, Dennis Hubbard and John Lawler
OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Pam Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Christoph, support by Brown to approve the agenda as published.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A typo was noted under membership discussion where it had Ms. without a last name.

MOTION by Thornhill, support by Brown, to approve the minutes from August 24, 2021 as amended.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEMBERSHIP:

Clerk Smith clarified discussion from the last meeting on removing a member from the committee and that per the ordinance the removal should be handled by the Mayor. Clerk Smith was going to check into this further and determine if the member moved and perhaps that was not necessary; but would follow up with the committee once she has more information.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Update on voter registration drives and other activities in the schools

Clerk Smith reported that she had reached out to the schools and was told that they are not allowing outside persons to come into the buildings due to concerns over the ongoing pandemic. She had offered that if there was some opportunity to connect with students who could promote registration or a registration day or other activities that would be great.

Chair Bartos mentioned that Mercy may be interested in a registration drive or mock election. Clerk Smith stated that the city had worked with Mercy in the past and would be more than happy to coordinate with the committee on those efforts.

b. Distribution of information to the homeless population through the schools

Member Christoph reported that she distributed the brochures provided by Clerk Smith through Farmington Public Schools for their homeless program and learned that the homeless program had been expanded to include foster children and that there are approximately 200 homeless children in the district and 100 families.

NEW BUSINESS

a. October Monthly Bulletin

Chair Bartos noted that Member Raymond had provided an article for the monthly bulletin on the importance of voting local. The article was very well received by the committee members and suggestions were made to not only post this to the website but make copies for Rose to also distribute to the schools for the homeless/foster program.

b. Mailing of absentee ballots

Clerk Smith reported that just over 11,300 absentee ballots were mailed out on September 23, 2021 with the help of a few committee members who volunteered in the office. She stated that to date over 12, 100 have been issued.

c. City-Wide Open House – October 3rd Noon-3pm

Chair Bartos mentioned the city-wide open house and that in the past committee members had assisted with distributing brochures. Clerk Smith noted that she will have a table at the event to register voters and pass out information. It was suggested that the vote local flyers were also available. Clerk Smith stated that any member who could give some time could just stop at her table in the Fire Department bay to retrieve brochures and flyers for distribution.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments

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

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Brown, supported by Christoph, to adjourn the meeting at 6:27pm.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pam Smith, City Clerk
City of Farmington Hills