

Meeting Minutes
Committee to Increase Voter Participation
City of Farmington Hills
September 26, 2023 – 5:30pm
City Hall-Viewpoint Room
3155 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills MI

Called to order by: The meeting was called to order by Chair Dennis Hubbard at 5:30pm.

Members Present: Karen Bartos
Susie Brown
Rose Christoph
Aimee Ergas
Dennis Hubbard
Dawn Raymond
Lauri Thornhill
Marjorie Whittemore

Members Absent: None
Others Present: None

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Bartos, support by Christoph, to approve agenda as published.
Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Brown, support to support by Christoph, to approve the minutes of May 30, 2023, as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on Founders Festival

Clerk Smith reported on the agenda that approximately 400 flyers were distributed.

Distribution of Information Flyers

No flyers were available for distribution at the meeting. The clerk's office will get them prepared and let committee members know when they can pick them up. Chair Hubbard will reach out to Assistant Clerk Carly Lindahl about the flyers.

The following members volunteered to take flyers to these venues:

Farmington Community Library (12 Mile): Brown a/o Christoph

The Hawk: Ergas

Ice Arena: Hubbard

City Open House: Bartos, Ergas, Thornhill

Early Voting and Dropbox Update

Chair Hubbard reported that cameras with video recording capability have been installed at new drop boxes for absentee ballots at 5 locations around the city. Clerk will be providing a map of locations.

Hubbard reported that the city video staff will get snippets to use for information videos. He will work with Clerk Smith or Asst. Clerk Lindahl to create a video and hopes it will be available the first week of October to go on the city website, cable access, etc.

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Discussion of the early voting days. Clerk Smith sent names to Oakland County of various committee members and others who have indicated availability to work those. Farmington Hills Nov. 7 election is part of the Oakland County pilot program for the early voting process.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Member Comments

Member Bartos commented that there should be election information to put out at the COHA-sponsored Candidate Forum on Sept. 27. Chair Hubbard will get in touch with Asst. Clerk Lindahl to see if some flyers can be made available for that event.

Chair Hubbard commented that a special edition of the Focus Newsletter with all the voting information for November will be coming out soon.

Hubbard commented that he had heard that there was no place to put out information at the city 50th anniversary celebration in July. Member Ergas attended and agreed that it would have been beneficial for the committee to have a table there.

Ergas suggested that after this fall's election it would be good for the committee to focus some effort on getting information to young voters for the 2024 election. There are a few non-partisan national organization working on this that might have resources the committee could use. Member Bartos suggested we add this to the committee's strategic plan.

Member Christoph suggested that the committee should work on a short "elevator speech" about its work so that all members have a consistent message to give out. There was discussion about encouraging citizens to volunteer as election workers.

Adjournment

Motion by Bartos, supported by Thornhill, to adjourn the meeting at 6:08. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting: Nov. 28, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee Ergas, committee secretary