

Minutes

Brown County League of Women Voters

December 12, 2016

Present: Pam Raider, Julie Winn, Janet Kramer, Judy East, Ruth Reichmann, Jeanne Lager, Shari Frank, Cathy Rountree, JoAnn Himebaugh, Tim Clark, Robyn Rosenberg-Bowman, Mary Perez, Heather Nicholson, Marge Cook, new member Clint Studabaker and guest speaker Christine Ritzmann.

Minutes of November meeting approved as posted.

Treasurer report – Treasurer, Jeanne Lager, states \$5,009.45 in Treasury – no transactions past month.

Correspondence: PMP bills from state and national given to Jeanne. Membership list needs to be updated by January 31.

Update on Zoning Ordinance by Planning Director Christine Ritzmann: We learn of Dave Wood's recent passing (previous director). Christine starts by reading the department's mission statement followed by synopsis of actions taken so far. They have budgeted money for consultant (K.K. Gerhard) to help rewrite the ordinances. Most pressing is new wording addressing tourist homes (increase distance between), tiny homes including septic issues, signage, large events, abandoned cars and heritage preservation including sunset clause, permits for towers and PRD's (Planned Recreational Developments currently no guidelines). Meanwhile Flood Plain Ordinance was time sensitive – it has been reviewed, repealed and new one adopted by both County Council and County Commissioners. New language includes terms floodway and floodway fringe. Sign ordinance must include new State Supreme Court ruling that content not decide whether sign is nixed. Next P & Z board meeting is Tuesday December 20th 6 pm – minutes of all meetings are on their website. Members suggest a series of presentations on state of the county and that members of citizens groups such as Preservation and Keep BC beautiful be added to advisory committee. Ms. Ritzmann would like the League to throw weight behind idea to hire consultant. After she leaves League members discuss issue – would support if consultant only plays consulting role and does not write ordinances and if role is time limited.

Current Business:

Fiscal and Development Study: Will be circulated to membership in new form for comment before full membership meeting to reach consensus.

Brown County Celebrates the Bicentennial event held at Historical Center on November 17 was big success and well received by public.

Reality Store at the Junior High was held on December 1. Got thank you letter – tally on three voting questions: 1) Cyber-bullying? 65 Y to 85 N (down from last year); 2) Does home have WI-FI? 94 Y to 37 N and 3) Want to use iPad or electronic in school? 116 Y to 34 N. School would like to use our data.

State Education Study membership action and report due Feb. 17, 2017 – Appointment with Dr. Hammack set for January 9th at 1:15 pm to discuss questions relative to school testing with her input will go to membership meeting.

Potential Community Conversations: Court House, Emergency Services, furthering Wellness and Economic Development with both Redevelopment committees attending.

Updates:

Proposed Washington township fire territory: no update

Volksmarch for health sponsored by our League – event to be held on Sunday April 23 – 8 am to 4 pm.
Suggestion made to include in Wildflower Foray brochure also held that weekend.

Newsletter and Website – Newsletter out after holidays and next meeting. Redevelopment Commission will have link to League's website.

2017 Who's Who: need to get electronic copy from Susanne – Robyn reports multiple errors booklet will be updating this year for distribution at fair.

Committees:

Emergency Services – committee might be: Cathy, Susanne, Bill Lloyd and Clint

Water and Air sheds: Joanne, Clint, and Janet

Health: Cathy reports on new septic being reviewed by board – discussion on definition of bedrooms. Department receives 1-2 calls a week on effluent discharge - half of them turn on to be problems. Judy Hess replacing Judy Swift as head of Health Department.

Observers Corp – needs to be revitalized – have sign up list and list of what want covered and membership wear badges – send paragraph to Judy for newsletter. Getting new Highway Department building.

Partnership: report from head of Emergency – emergency weather radios available – concern is no place for tourists to go in case of emergency. Also need guidelines for what to have in case of emergencies Sarah will come and address neighborhood groups. Also learned \$170,000 grant awarded for pre-school expansion.

Meeting adjourned 11:50 am.

Next Board meeting is January 09, 2017, 10 am BC Library.

Pam Raider

Secretary

League of Women Voters of Brown County