

Minutes

Brown County League of Women Voters

February 12, 2018

Present: Pam Raider, Julie Winn, JoAnne Himebaugh, Shari Frank, Janet Kramer, Jeanne Lager, Tim Clark, Robyn Rosenberg Bowman, Jan Swigert, Tracy Stogsdill, Heather Nicholson, and new member Laurie Teal.

Minutes of January 2018 minutes approved with correction to inn Keepers tax from 1 cent to \$1 – bill did not pass.

Treasurer report – Treasurer Jeanne Lager reports Treasury is \$3001.16. Fifth Third bank started charging \$3 for written statements Jeanne will start getting on line. Additions include: new member Sonja Leerkamp, one friend request and dues from two existing members. Expenses were \$62 for Democrat ad for Legislators forum.

Correspondence: Hometown Collaborative Initiative will host forum on a survey of community needs on March 7th at Intermediate School at 5:30. Members urged to weigh in on survey if not done so.

Current Business:

Fiscal and Development Study: Julie has received no comments since January 19. Will present next week on to County Council and Commissioners. Strategy will be to praise them for efforts made since inception of the study and add few suggestions that could continue to improve fiscal responsibility of our government. Need to establish follow up committee to keep watching ongoing basis important to focus on process. Tim states the whole process is reactive with no strategic planning, no trend data, check list or report card. Susanne reminds us used to be strategic annual planning. Might be good suggestions to encourage

Meet Your Legislators: Event held on February 3 was well attended with wide latitude on questions.

Primary Candidates' Forum and Questionnaire: Discussion of races we need to cover – Judge, District 2 Commissioner, District 9 Congressional and County Clerk. Tracy fills us in on restrictions on what Judge Candidates can address. May need only 2 days. Keep April 11 for Judge, Clerk and Commissioners – If Trey Hollingsworth can come maybe establish Saturday date for congressional. Parties have till July 2nd to choose candidate for empty slots. Deadline for School board is July 25. Julie will get with Democrat editor as to deadline for questionnaire publication. Meeting for choosing questions set for Thursday 2/15 at 10 am.

New Business:

Julie and JoAnne will attend state league Presidents Day event on February 17.

Annual Meeting: Need to set date, location and program information. Suggestions: BCI, Seasons or Wedding Barn. Possible topics : Laura Hammock on new Health center or program on mountain biking.

Newsletter and Website: Not addressed – need to firm up dates of meetings.

Committees:

Health Dept. – Public input on Septic Ordinance is set for March 29 at 6 pm.

HCI – Hometown Collaborative Initiative project –Still time to take survey at indianahci.org/browncounty – results and forum will be held on March 7.

Maple Leaf Project – Robyn reports loan is done. Committee will be talking to Live Nation and sound and lighting contractors. Heather asks if there will be display space for local art and musicians. Bids will soon go out to contractors.

Volksmarch: Last year League helped to sponsor in April – it is on schedule again – check with Judy East as to our involvement this year.

Some discussion on problems with ORCA who is upset by ongoing disputes between Van Buren Township Fire department and Township Trustee who has contracted with another recently formed fire department. The building's future built with OCRA money is in limbo and this may jeopardize future funding to Brown County. Discussion cycles around to Brown County's Comprehensive Plan which is inadequate and not up to date and no plan to update.

Sunshine Week: coming up in March – Julie will discuss with Sara Clifford of Democrat – develop plan for what we can do.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 am.

Next Board meeting is March 12, 2018, 10 am BC Library.

Pam Raider

Secretary

League of Women Voters of Brown County