

Minutes

Brown County League of Women Voters

January 11, 2016

Present: Pam Raider, Julie Winn, Janet Kramer, Shari Frank, JoAnne Himebaugh, Jan Swigert, Judy East, Marge Cook, Robyn Rosenberg-Bowman, Jeanne Lager, and Mary Perez.

Minutes of December 14, 2015 were approved as corrected.

Treasurer report - Treasurer reports bank balance of \$6,055.47 (doesn't include state PMP).

Correspondence: Julie has upgraded the new software associated with League site and is ready to enter our membership by January 31 deadline. Julie to resend state advocacy information. Erin Kelley, state president, has sent bills up before state legislature that relate to women's issues. Concurrence required on revised Juvenile position by April 1st – Julie to forward on line.

Current Business:

Speaker event: December 14 – Dr. Jody Madeira – presentation went well and we learned a lot about tracking bills in the state legislature which will be important for tracking women's issues and forest bills. Thanks to Shari for power point printed sheets to refer to.

Recap State Education Concurrence: Julie sent in our league concurrence adding that the majority are for public supported early education – reservations being tax expense and parental responsibility.

Meet the Legislators Session – set for February 13 10 am – Eric Koch responded but requested formal session be limited to one hour. Julie thinks we should use cards for questions for efficiency. Brent Steele has not yet responded – he did not appear last year and is not running for office again. Voter Services position needs to remain non-partisan (no signs in yard) but person can express opinions as individual to representatives.

Local Government Boards and Commissions update: Julie and JoAnne speak about commissioners meeting January 6, 2016 where County Commissioners appointed positions for boards and commissions. Julie addressed fact that Area Planning and BZA boards might be out of compliance with state law. Redevelopment not made reports in two years. Although rules stated that applicants be present yet some were appointed who were not present. Evan Werling was appointed to Bean Blossom Sewer Board. Robyn Bowman Rosenberg was appointed to Property Tax board. Joe Wray was not reappointed to Redevelopment – Dave Redding from council is replacing him. Dave Critzer steps down from president of County Council – replaced by Dave Redding with Jerry Pittman as Vice President. Bruce Gould and Jim Shultz remain on Redevelopment board. Diana Biddle nixed Yellowwood covered bridge idea as public has not stepped forward to fund raise.

Fiscal Viability Study: Julie has sent extensive draft documents on line with important questions in red. Committee will meet again in January.

This Is Your County Government: Jeanne Lager has sent out electronic copy for us to make changes on. She has received several pages back needs better maps (Susanne and Robyn might be helpful) and ideas for printer. Would like ready by primary candidates meeting.

School Presentation Update: Need to review proposed video – after February meeting group can see. Do we want to tie registering voters to this event?

Watershed Position: JoAnne wants to revise to include educating home owners to ecology so that water leaving property is clean which will improve watershed quality – she will rewrite and send on line.

New Business:

Primary Forums (Indiana Primary is May 3, 2016): Do forum in April – week of 12-14 looks good. Questions planned ahead of time. Final filing date in February 5, 2016.

Yellowwood Invitation: - Charlie Coles invites league members to tour Dubois timbering site – will go after the weather breaks.

Website/Newsletter: next Newsletter will come out within a week to give legislators meeting date.

Committees:

Partnership: No meetings November and December so no report.

Schools – Robyn reports Judy Hardwick is new school board president. Superintendent applications will end this month. We The People won the State championship and National competition will be held April 29 – May 3.

Observers: Appointments listed above. Commissioners have changed meeting times. First Wednesday they will meet at 9 am mostly technical business – third Wednesday remains at 6 pm. Council remains the third Monday of the month 6:30 pm.

State Legislature – paying for roads is big issue – don't want to increase income taxes bill proposed to increase cigarette taxes which now go to General Fund to go toward roads. Solid Waste might lose ability to tax – their loss in revenue would have to be made up by counties.

State Council will be held in Greensburg on April 9th.

National Convention will be held in June in Washington DC.

Next Board meeting is February 8, 2016, 10 am BC Library.

Pam Raider

Secretary

League of Women Voters of Brown County