

Minutes

Brown County League of Women Voters

July 13, 2015

Present: Pam Raider, Julie Winn, Robyn Rosenberg Bowman, Janet Kramer, Mary Perez, Ruth Reichmann, Shari Frank, Jan Swigert and new member Evan Wierling.

Minutes of June 08, 2015 were approved as written.

Treasurer report – none as Treasurer not present.

Correspondence: There will be a state league 95th anniversary celebration on Saturday September 26 at the Athenium in Indianapolis - Information and registration will be on line. We are planning to show new movie on suffragette movement at local playhouse sometime in late fall. The North Carolina league is suing the state over recent changes in voter regulations.

Current Business:

Yellowwood Road Community Conversation Recap – several members met to discuss next steps. The buy-out company has started on the north end of the lake. There is some discrepancies in information and a missing document which needs to be located. Members with help of Diana Biddle commissioner will be pursuing idea of the covered bridge.

Fiscal Viability Study: Julie Winn, Carol Weir and Jan Swigert met with Auditor Beth Mulry to flesh out ideas for charts or visual aids that will be presented to public. Beth has a made a color coded guide to various streams of monies. Discussion ensued about mandatory and discretionary expenses. Evan brought up that the Redevelopment Commission which should coordinate a strategic plan has not been meeting due to Commissioner Joe Wray's disagreement with current government trends.

Community Conversations on next steps for Wellness and Heritage Tourism – first one will be held on July 23rd and will be overview and assessment on what has been accomplished since 2010. On panel: Chris Flook (Ball State expert on making small towns work), Jane Ellis, Diana Biddle, Jim Shultz, Lee Edgren, Tom Tuley and Cathy Martin. The August 13th conversation will include economic development using interplay of natural and historic assets. 2016 is the state bicentennial and also an anniversary of the state park system – a gift the state gave to itself. Money is available to all the parks for arts in the park and Jim Eagleman will be applying to get special grant. Last conversation will be on September 24th and spotlight Arts and Music.

Who's Where – at the printers should be ready for the county fair.

Fire District: Case was heard decision pending

County fair: Julie passes around sign-up sheet which will be sent on line for – need two on each shift.

New Business:

Discussion of important Planning and Zoning meeting on June 25. At the meeting some misinformation was said about our League's involvement with the last Comprehensive plan. Ruth presents copy and clarifies that no the league did not fund - it was part of the Vision 2010 Plan and the commissioners funded the PKG plan. The county did not adopt the plan although it appears the town accept its part for a while. The county reverted back to outdated 1993 plans. The town replaced their part of the plan in 2011 to coincide

with the county when they applied for Stellar funding. Evan brings up that our ordinances do not comply with the state. There are no rural people on the plan commission despite the fact that 95% of the residents live in the rural areas. He suggests that straightening out the Planning and Zoning board is key to getting proper ordinances and a strategic plan.

Website/Newsletter: Next newsletter to come out after August conversations.

Committees:

Observer Corps: Pam reports on recent meetings.

June 15 Council – Budget training dates set. Dave Critzer announces county will be short \$400,000. Murder trial could cost county dearly. Counsel is looking into duplications and monies in each department. June 17 – Commissioners Hiway sold vehicles on GovDeals made \$19,955. Working on roads will take longer as laying down proper base. Health board to rewrite septic ordinance. Tricia Bock appointed to SCCAP board. Old log jail has structural problems.

June 18 Town – presentation Vision 2020 Leading Brown County. July meeting to discuss tax abatement and economic revitalization status for Hawthorne Hills. Multiple trees need to come down. Town budget submitted to county Sept 1st, to town meeting on Sept 17 – adopt on Oct 15. Town taking input on three year plan.

Partnership: Janet reports have met to discuss revitalizing the group .

School Board: Robyn reports discussion on referendum to fund CRC and teachers raises, New appointments include Tom Jackson and Steve Miller Jr.

Janet reminds us that we have not included TC Steele in our conversations panels and offers to contact them to see if someone would be on panel.

Next Board meeting is August 10, 2015, 10 am BC Library.

Pam Raider

Secretary

League of Women Voters of Brown County