

Minutes

Brown County League of Women Voters

June 11, 2018

Present: Pam Raider, Julie Winn, JoAnne Himebaugh, Janet Kramer, Jeanne Lager, Tim Clark, Ruth Reichmann, Greg Bowes, Cathy Rountree, Laurie Teal, Robyn Bowman, Mary Perez and Heather Nicholson.

Minutes of May 2018 minutes approved with spelling correction.

Treasurer report – Treasurer Jeanne Lager reports to Julie that Treasury stands at \$3749.75. Julie and Jeanne will work to contact non dues paying members. Treasury increased as result of donations to History Day which we over our voted amount to pay.

Correspondence: Julie announces that she and Jack are moving to Seneca Falls this summer/fall. Will coordinate with Shari and Pam as to transition. National Convention will be held in Chicago end of June to beginning of July. So far no one going from our league. New president of Monroe League, Ann Birch, will be coming to have lunch with Julie on June 21st other members welcome to join. Ruth announces she will be moving to Meadowood in Bloomington in September – may join Bloomington League. State League did get approved for 501c3 status still uncertain if will be granted umbrella status. When they do will need to make our provisional language we approved at annual meeting a permanent part of the by-laws.

Current Business:

Annual Meeting tasks and guidance: Discussion of tasks and guidance – Ruth and Abbie Oliver may be leaving board due to changes in their lives. Directions to the Board 1) Redesign and redo Membership Handbook and review by laws. 2) Look into voting irregularities – establish election observers – Gregg Bowes offers to find out what is allowed. 3) Broaden language on watershed position to include forest issue or do new study - both State and National have positions on some environmental issues. 4) Archiving of important documents of League history and 5) Finish up with Fire and Emergency Services. Janet has lots of archived material in her basement Laurie Teal offers to help as she is professional organizer.

Membership Handbook: All agree 1974 Membership Handbook needs to be updated and given to all new members. The last one contained 1) How League functions 2) Calendar of upcoming events 3) Membership list and list of officers. 4) Local, State and National Positions 5) How to write legislators complete with addresses 6) Nonpartisan statement and By Laws. Membership Handbook Committee formed: Jan, Janet, Pam, Laurie and Susanne. Will be meeting before July meeting. Julie has not heard back from Muncie and Crawfordsville Leagues who have handbooks. Ruth suggests we add section From Study to Action.

Farmers Market tabling at Bean Blossom 6/15 4-7 pm. Pam volunteers will need supplies membership forms, Whos Where and banner. Sonja Leerkamp will be there 5:30 – 7 pm.

Fair Planning: 4H fair will be July 30 thru August 4th. Booth space to focus on voting and registrations – JoAnne offers her hand made posters from school registration and can make more.

Brown County Community Foundation Volunteer Fair: Previously the Volunteer Fair has been tied to their Annual meeting in June. This year they are trying something new and will have one day 10am to 2pm family carnival fair on August 18 geared toward youth participation. Discussion on reusing our Citizenship quiz. JoAnn has asked school teachers what kinds of questions are age appropriate – will have 25 questions.

New Business:

Brown County Community Foundation Annual Meeting: Will be held on June 21 starting at 5:30 at Historical Society – Ruth will be speaker. Also Foundation has announced \$1 for \$1 match on Scholarship endowments – members could give to Dorothy Stewart fund month of June.

Courthouse Community Conversation: Last week DLZ presented its feasibility study to the Commissioners, Council and general public – several good questions were raised and continue to exist. Should the League weigh in with community conversation as we do not have a position? Could be tied with our Fiscal Policy position and if commissioners ask – Julie will confer. Also Beth Mulry, Auditor, suggested that we go out to areas and hold meetings – possibly use the elementary schools. Discussion ensues about presentation and process as being especially important to success of project.

Calendar for fall Election activities: Races for the candidate's forum include School board, town and county offices, 9th Congressional District and state representative. Issues – need to contact Trey Hollingsworth and nail down date – shoot for Late September before early voting. Also consult with judges candidates as to what they are willing to talk about. July 1st or 2nd will be last dates to sign up to run for office. After our July meeting we need to nail down the candidates questions to get to Sarah Clifford for printing sometime around early August. Voters' Guide will come our late September/early October.

Newsletter/website: June was posted last week. Website needs to add dates of up-coming events.

Committees:

Health Dept. –Cathy reports on Health Dept. board. New committee formed to address Opioid Crisis – those interested can contact Health Dept. Next Health Board meeting will be Tuesday June 19. Local Affordable Health care group is sponsoring free clinic day at local wellness center on Saturday June 23 from 10-2. Cathy is offering to lead a walk through forest cut off of Tulip Tree. Mike Spaulding, new manager of Yellowwood and Best Management Practices personnel will be there. Meet at forest gate at 9 am on Wednesday June 20.

Observers Corp: Important to attend and continue to observe, however Heather points out by time report gets in newsletter it is old and paper has already covered. Still she agrees to report on in meetings.

Tim reports on Phase 2 of Financial Study done by SPEA: was presented to Council. After study President Keith Baker reports that nine positions receive \$42,590 with benefits this is above average for counties of our size therefore no cost of living raises for 2019. Equipment and truck drivers may be under average.

Ruth reports on Peaceful Valley and related heritage issues: Town Hall and Development Commission met to decide on demolition permit for Calvin House. She believes we need Ordinance for Preservation in Planning and Zoning ordinances. A deal was worked out where the neighbor who owns McGrayal house will raise money to move house over one lot. Cost to move is \$30,000. Meanwhile Peaceful Valley is paying Gould \$2500 until house moves which is lost parking revenue. This case important as shows historical buildings can be saved and moved. Historic plaque will be placed at Old Country Store in honor of Hohenberger and his photos sometime in August. She reminds group that there are 70 buildings which could be on state historical registry and town could become historical town. However as Laurie reminds us that puts many restrictions on what changes can be made.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Next Board meeting is July 09, 2018, 10 am BC Library.

Pam Raider

Secretary, League of Women Voters of Brown County

