

Minutes

Brown County League of Women Voters

March 11, 2016

Present: Pam Raider, Julie Winn, Janet Kramer, Shari Frank, JoAnne Himebaugh, Judy East, Robyn Rosenberg-Bowman, Jeanne Lager, and Cathy Rountree, Ruth Reichmann, Jan Swigert, and Evan Werling.

Minutes of February 08, 2016 were approved with spelling corrections.

Treasurer report – Treasurer reports \$5187.36 in Treasury – PMP to state has been paid. Need to pay We The People.

Correspondence: Julie has heard from foundation – the Dorothy Stewart scholarship will be \$451.18. There are several good candidates this year. Approval give, for treasury to make it \$500. Individuals can give just to the scholarship to make grant higher. Concurrence required on revised Juvenile position by April 1st – Julie has forwarded on line – date for complete membership meeting established for Thursday March 24 – at Brown County Community Foundation 7 PM for dessert.

Current Business:

Meet the Legislators Session – on February 13 went well Eric Koch was there and stayed to answer questions.

We The People – State Board voted to give \$1000 again this year – will give \$500 years after this

Presidents Day: Janet, Pam and Julie went – Main speaker and workshops were geared around advocacy for positions. Julie ordered 5 T shirts which say Democracy is Not Spectator Sport (\$10) which we could give away at candidate's forum and annual meeting.

Planning for Candidates forums: County races with contenders – Recorder (4 running), Commissioner (3 republicans running), County Council (5 Republicans running for 3 seats). State races Senator (2 republicans) State Representative (6 republicans). Federal Races Representative (4 dems and 4 reps) Senate (3 reps). Will be held on three nights April 12-14 –could not get school auditorium all will be held in Salmon Room, County Office Building. Candidate's questions need to be in to Democrat by March 18. Committee to follow up with candidates. Not sure if have con positions to the school referendum – maybe do panel discussion instead of tied to candidates.

Fiscal Viability Study: Is largely connected to development issues in the county – questions to candidates need to address this issue. New figures for 2015 have been released. They chose office personal to be new Planning and Zoning director – Chris Wrightsman who already knew the job. New Redevelopment chair Dave Redding would like to focus on Bean Blossom and hear comments from residents they meet at 4 pm the 3rd Monday of month. They need to work more closely with Sewer District board. Evan is new President of Sewer district hopes to make board more effective.

This Is Your County Government book: Jeanne Lager almost done in-putting changes; has been in contact with printers. Plan to use state grant of \$300 and educational fund dollars to print. Small committee to meet on Friday 11:30 to review and get in printable order.

School Presentation Update: JoAnne reports have not been to schools to register since 1978. School has made strong effort to register kids. Only day left to register is April 2nd after softball game. Decisions made to wait until fall and maybe do IGA table again as well.

Watershed Position: JoAnne wants to revise our position to include educating home owners to ecology so that water leaving property is clean which will improve watershed quality – she has been researching other counties and states on line – the state league is poor on environmental positions. She presents timeline of previous pertinent studies and positions. Suggestion made to simply add two other water sheds to current position for annual meeting.

New Business:

State Education Study – need local league participation to interview local school staff as to their feelings about high stakes testing.

Planning for annual meeting – Hotel Nashville – May 19th – Speaker Dave Redding – Janet to make arrangements.

Website/Newsletter: will come out soon to tell of candidate's forums and upcoming annual meeting including budget.

Committees:

Partnership: Will only be meeting quarterly. Changing focus to coalition building – first project literacy pre-school learning.

Town – JoAnne attended meeting on Four Corners and submitted ideas for playground for kids with design around reclaiming water.

Health: Cathy reports on County/Employee Health Wellness program – county is interested in inviting public to join. Cathy wonders is League would want to participate and perhaps sponsor a health related event. Group seems enthusiastic. Still in discussions on needle exchange – not much data on HIV or Hep C in Brown County. Indiana Recovery Alliance active in county Christi Thrasher – held forum 1st Saturday in March.

Point made that County Council and Commissioners not getting feedback from committee appointees.

Some discussion about holding community conversations on referendum, wellness, drug issues and partner with other groups.

State Council will be held in Greensburg on April 9th. Julie, Pam and Marge going.

National Convention will be held in June in Washington DC.

Next Board meeting is April 11, 2016, 10 am BC Library.

Pam Raider

Secretary

League of Women Voters of Brown County