

## Minutes

### Brown County League of Women Voters

November 9, 2015

Present: Pam Raider, Julie Winn, Janet Kramer, Ruth Reichmann, Cathy Rountree, JoAnne Himebaugh, Evan Werling, Jan Swigert, Judy East, Marge Cook, Robyn Rosenberg-Bowman, Jeanne Lager, Pam Keffaber, Mary Perez, and Susanne Gaudin.

Minutes of October 12, 2015 were approved as corrected.

Treasurer report - Treasurer reports bank balance of \$6,255.06 (last month's balance was reported in error) – PMP to state not paid yet.

Correspondence: Linda Shanks our State liaison asks what's new.

#### Current Business:

County Boards and Committee openings: Evan Werling reports January 1, 2016 positions open for appointments to county and town boards and committees. Full list appeared in our newsletter. He reiterates how important it is for the public to get involved so these boards do not reflect only individuals with personal agendas. Most important are Planning, Redevelopment and Sewer boards. Form to express interest was circulated on line. CVB board seems somewhat secretive – no posting of minutes or financials. Suggestion made to send letter to editor and link to form to encourage wider participation. Also need of town and county to work together – perhaps maintaining and upgrading bike trail could be common interest. Steve Mollo has reported that half to Mothers Cupboard has quit and they are seeking more volunteers and board members.

Fire District: Commissioner Biddle has recently expressed some interest in topic. Group seems unanimous that League should not take lead – although pursue reviewing our emergency services as way to be helpful.

Next steps Heritage and Tourism: Julie made presentation to Redevelopment Commission on October 30<sup>th</sup> – speech is on line thru link on our website. We need to do something as result of the recent Community Conversations. Out of the discussions came idea to form several committees: 1) General Calendar for Community 2) Organize Trail System 3) Park designated Historical site 4) Develop Heritage Trail 5) Work with Eric Koch state rep to get help with services provided to state areas by local community. Discussion follows as to how to move these along, who to have on committees.

Fiscal Viability Study: Julie presents draft of document will go to public – includes 2014 balance sheet including income and expenses. If government agrees with figures will publish and present to public and government, plus post on website. Committee report will be used to reach membership consensus – Group agrees with plan.

This Is Your County Government: The need to redo Our County Government with job descriptions for positions and also list committee positions available came out of fiscal study. Jeanne has taken lead and now needs help with making changes on pages – sends around sign-up sheet. Suggestion made to have pamphlet with info about running for office.

#### New Business:

Nail down Legislators Session – Invite Eric Koch for early February.

Primary Forums (Indiana Primary is May 3, 2016): Do in April – question planned ahead of time. Plan for week long as last time.

Reality Store: Scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:45 to mid afternoon at Junior High – grade eight. League and foundation have booths. Judy East is spearheading contact she could use some volunteers – also to locate voting booth/ box/map and ideas for questions to vote on.

Website/Newsletter: Newsletter just came out - website up to date.

Committees:

Observer Corps: Pam has not been attending of late - nothing new to report.

Partnership: Each group attending was asked to list top three priorities – discussion leads to fiscal strategies planning and economic development surrounding trail development. Scott Rudd and Diana Biddle wanted suggestions how town and county can work together.

Health – Cathy Rountree reports next meeting November 17.

Environment: JoAnne Himebaugh reports on watershed maps asks for other information on our position. Also term air shed is being talked about would also affect watersheds. In working with schools to get program about voting she has found a film entitled The People Speak – very good. Suggestion made to show after our next meeting.

Schools – Robyn reports We The People will be having region 8 competition this year on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Next Board meeting is December 14, 2015, 10 am BC Library.

Pam Raider

Secretary

League of Women Voters of Brown County