

Minutes

Brown County League of Women Voters

October 09, 2017

Present: Pam Raider, Julie Winn, JoAnne Himebaugh, Cathy Rountree, Shari Frank, Janet Kramer, Jeanne Lager, Ruth Reichmann, Clint Studabaker, Heather Nicholson, Jan Swigert, and Tim Clark.

Minutes of September 2017 approved.

Treasurer report – Treasurer Jeanne Lager reports the following expenses: Indiana PMP \$585, Who's Where \$1969.42, Maps and survey \$40, PO Box \$18. Total in Treasury is \$2,452.16.

Correspondence: Commissioner Diana Biddle asked if our League would sponsor a community conversation on the Salt Creek trail which is bogged down in controversy over eminent domain issues. Time period is short they want in late October. After discussion the group votes yes we would host event. Julie to get with Diana to determine who stakeholders are. Julie has received letter from organization called Vote Smart comprised of old League members and several congressmen. They have established Onpoint – which allows any issue to be accessed by phones to find out how congress members voted. They wish to make a presentation. Julie has since researched the group appears to be one man show however the Bloomington League will host him in November.

Current Business:

September 26 National Voter Registration Day recap: Went well even though only got one registration – it was good visibility.

Fiscal and Development Study: Julie expresses need to full membership meeting to adopt as position – comment that position is too length but it is involved subject. Suggestion made to have Holiday Party and Concurrence event in late November – date and place to be determined.

Courthouse Project and Peaceful Valley: Dr. Jim Glass presentation on the Courthouse and Historical Old Town Nashville scheduled for Wednesday November 8th at 7PM including panel discussion on Heritage Tourism and the Hoosier Hills scenic by way.. Pam and Clint report on latest meetings of Courthouse feasibility committee. After much discussion and rehashing of issues the committee finally recommended that Commissioners hire DLZ consulting firm to do feasibility study to be voted on at the first October commissioner meeting. A subcommittee will flesh out the items that need to be included in the work order such as costs of refurbishing old courthouse.

New Business:

Reality Store: Judy East heading committee planning reality store – looking for volunteers our league has a booth. Event will be November 30th – contact Judy if interested.

Newsletter and Website: JoAnn sent newsletter out this morning – believes she can send one a month. Robyn needs dates of events to update the website.

Committees:

Health Dept. – meetings are posted on their website. Local health group is in discussions with schools who are establishing clinic for their employees at Eagle Park. Perhaps they will consider allowing citizens to join as well. There are still issues with the septic ordinance.

Sewer Board: There are now 4 members on board looking for a fifth. A major step is talking to town about connecting Bean Blossom and Woodlawn Lake down Greasy Creek to Nashville. Question as to whether town could handle all that plus Big Woods project and Maple Leaf during dry tourist season as often the alarms go off at plant. They could install equalizers at Bill Monroe's and trailer park which would stem flow or equalize it.

Development issues in county: Tim weighs in that there are no strategic plans about development. The Zoning and Comprehensive plan still outdated. Survey was done and county could qualify for OCRA grant in amount of \$50,000 plus Zoning department has \$30,000. Department seems to opt for status quo and not want development plan. The existing plan is more of a vision statement than a plan. And they probably need to have 5 to 10 year plan with maps showing developable land. League does have position on Planning maybe they could step in and encourage citizens advisory. Julie could get on Commissioners and Planning to advocate for our position – suggestion Purdue Extension should be involved with land use policy. Group votes the go ahead. Also leads into discussion of no training for boards – they don't seem to follow Indiana code

Observers Corps: full report by Heather is in newsletter.

HCI – Hometown Initiative project – JoAnn and Tim report. Next meeting is tonight. Group will put out county wide survey asking for citizen input on three fronts place making, economic, leadership. There has been problem with attendance but both felt they could ramp up with energy again. Ruth also attending meetings.

Meeting finally adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Next Board meeting is November 13, 2017, 10 am BC Library.

Pam Raider

Secretary

League of Women Voters of Brown County