

BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

MEET: Time 6:00 5/3/22

Where: Community Room at the Police Department

Present: Elisabeth Mickenberg, Grace Grundhauser, Thea Knight, Michelle Lefkowitz, Jim Rader, Mike McGarghan, Kate Baldwin, Martha Gile, Larry Granillo,

Absent: Charles Cashatt, Helen Rock, Annie Schneider, Youth Member Rebecca Cunningham.

Also Present: Sarah Montgomery, Associate City Clerk

Meeting called to order by Chair Elisabeth Mickenberg at 6:06pm

Agenda: Approved unanimously.

Meeting Length: The meeting length was set for 1 hour.

Minutes: Michelle Lefkowitz moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on 4/5/22. The motion was seconded by Grace Grundhauser. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: No public comment.

Approval of Applications: Sarah Montgomery reported:

April - New Registrations 109, Transferred out of Town 148, Purged 29

Michelle Lefkowitz made a motion to accept the numbers as presented, seconded by Grace Grundhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Voter Challenges: Sarah Montgomery presented a list of 915 voters to challenge. The reason for the challenge is that the ballots mailed to these voters for the 3/1/22 Annual City Election were returned to the Clerk's office as undeliverable. Voters who still participated in the election or have changed their address since the ballots were mailed out will not be challenged. Jim Radar made a motion to approve the challenges, seconded by Michelle Lefkowitz. The motion passed unanimously. Lis Mickenberg asked who was handling the challenges at polling places – BRV members or other election officials. Grace Grundhauser said that in the ward she works in, it is handled by the election workers. This is based on a discussion that they had about how to process these. Kate Baldwin, Larry Granillo, and Michelle Lefkowitz all agreed that it is mostly handled by the election workers, but that the BRV members are also equipped to handle it if they have a challenged voter at their table.

Clerk's Report:

Sarah Montgomery reported that preparations for the August primary are beginning at the clerk's office. Since ballots will not be automatically mailed out to all registered voters, she anticipates a large volume of absentee ballot requests needing to be processed in the office. Since voters have come to expect

ballots to be automatically mailed to them, the clerk's office will be sending out postcards to all voters to alert them that they will need to request the ballots for this election. This is because state legislation does not allow for ballots to be automatically mailed out to all voters for this election. Board members discussed how this information can get out to our voters and suggested sharing this information through several avenues – paid ad in Front Porch Forum, Seven Days, Water/ Electric Bill mailings, North Ave News, and through the Mayor's office. Sarah Montgomery will share the postcard language with Grace Grundhauser once it is available and she will adapt it to share through these platforms.

The Board also discussed the state redistricting. Sarah Montgomery reported that redistricting updates have already been applied in VEMS and city staff are working on updating our maps – online and in print for the polling places on Election Day. Lis Mickenberg noted that state elections can cause confusion at the polling places, because voters do not always know what district they live in. Helping voters with this may cause things to move a little slower on Election Day.

Application Signing Schedule:

The Board set the following schedule until the next meeting is held: May 5 – Martha; May 12 – Thea; May 19 – Mike; May 26 – Grace; June 2 – Kate.

Board Appointments

There will be four new appointments for the board in July. Applications are due by May 20th. The four current terms that are ending are for Mike McGarghan, Thea Knight, Jim Radar, and Helen Rock. Jim Radar will not be applying for reappointment. Mike McGarghan asked how the appointment process works and expressed concern over how it had been handled when he applied in the past. Lis Mickenberg responded that the board members do not have anything to do with overseeing the process of appointments.

Lis Mickenberg announced that she will not be running for Board Chair again when the new fiscal year starts. She explained that the responsibilities associated with being chair are not too cumbersome and mainly include running the meetings and approving agendas. She mentioned that another board she is on rotates the running of the meeting between members, so that may also be a possibility if members wanted to share that responsibility, though there will still need to be an elected chair. Larry Granillo stated that electing the chair should happen in the first meeting of the fiscal year, so this should happen at July's meeting. The board will need to decide: 1.) Who will be the new chair? 2.) Who will run the meetings?

Election Day Communication between Wards

The board discussed whether it is necessary for BRV members to communicate on Election Day about Election Day business. Michelle Lefkowitz said that she currently doesn't do it consistently and finds it difficult to do on busy days. Larry Granillo stated that it wasn't until recently that this type of communication was possible so unless the laws have changed, it is likely not legally required. Grace Grundhauser noted that she doesn't feel comfortable promising something that in reality may not be

able to be followed through on. Mike McGarghan noted that if that information was relayed to the clerk's office on Election Day, it could be updated in VEMS, but the paper checklists at the polling places would not be updated. Michelle Lefkowitz wondered if it was a violation to open meeting law to have these group conversations on Election Day. Michelle Lefkowitz made a motion that BRV members will not report address changed to BRV members in other wards on Election Day. Seconded by Grace Grundhauser. Passed unanimously. Grace Grundhauser will remove the reference to doing so from the Election Day guidelines. Mike McGarghan and Lis Mickenberg clarified that communication between BRV members is still encouraged, just not in regards to this specific issue. Mike McGarghan asked if channels more official than text (example: Microsoft Teams) should be used when communicating with each other on Election Day. Grace Grundhauser mentioned that this may be a technological roadblock for some members of the board.

On a motion by Michelle Lefkowitz, seconded by Grace Grundhauser, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sarah Montgomery, Associate City Clerk