

BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

MEET: Time 6:00 4/5/2016

Where Conference Room 12, City Hall

**Present:** Elisabeth Mickenberg, Charles Cashatt, Janet Hicks, Alex Farrell, Lenore Broughton, Michelle Lefkowitz, Helen Rock

**Absent:** Katherine Miles, Martha Gile

**Also Present:** Amy Bovee, City Councilor Adam Roof

**Meeting called to order by Chair: Elisabeth @ 6:05 p.m.**

**Agenda:** Motion made by Michelle Lefkowitz to accept Agenda as presented, seconded by Charles Cashatt. Motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Length:** The board agreed that the meeting would end at 7:30pm.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Charles Cashatt to approve the minutes, seconded by Lenore Broughton. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:** Adam Roof introduced himself and said he would speak more during the discussion of universal polling places.

**Approval of Applications:** Amy Bovee submitted: February: new voter registrations 1,220, purged 27, transferred out of town 627. March: new voter registrations 594, purged 17, transferred out of town 264.

Motion made by Michelle Lefkowitz to accept the numbers, seconded by Janet Hicks. Motion passed unanimously.

**Clerk's Report:** Amy Bovee informed the Board that one of their members, Kathy Chasan, had resigned. She let the Board know that the vacancy had been advertised and applications would be accepted through April 20. The term will expire in July, so this person would need to apply for re-appointment in a couple of months.

**Member's Report:** Charles Cashatt reported that he would work with Amy Bovee to place links to the BRV Facebook page on the City's website to give the page more exposure.

**Review Application Signing Schedule**

The Board set their approval schedule for April and May:

April 5 – Alex, April 8 – Martha, April 12 – Janet, April 15 – Michelle, April 19 – Lenore, April 22 – Charles, April 26 – Helen, April 29 – Lis

May 3 - Alex, May 6 – Martha, May 10 – Janet, May 13 – Michelle, May 17 – Lenore, May 20 – Charles, May 24 – Helen, May 27 – Lis, May 31 – Michelle

### **New Business**

#### **a. Review Legal Response to By-Law Update**

Amy Bovee provided the Board with an email and copy of modified By-Laws that she had received from the City Attorney's Office. She noted that the City Attorney's Office had advised that it would be better for the Board to treat this document as Rules rather than By-laws, and much of the By-law document had made references to Open Meeting Law, which the Board has no ability to change. The Board agreed that a few of its members would meet independently to draft a Rules document and would bring this back to the full Board. Lis Mickenberg, Lenore Broughton, Michelle Lefkowitz, and Janet Hicks agreed to work on this task.

#### **b. Discussion of Universal Polling Places (Resolution Enclosed)**

City Councilor Adam Roof spoke to the Board about a resolution that the City Council passed and referred to the Board for Registration of Voters. The resolution called on the Board to explore the idea of universal polling places. This would allow any Burlington voter to vote in any of Burlington's polling places. Councilor Roof explained that voter turnout has historically been very low in Burlington, and he is interested in exploring this and other ideas to improve voter turnout.

Lis Mickenberg expressed concern that the Board for Registration of Voters may not be the appropriate Board to make a recommendation on this idea, as their primary responsibility is maintenance of the Voter Checklist. Other decisions related to Elections are handled by the Clerk/Treasurer's Office staff.

Alex Farrell expressed interest in the project, and requested further information about other communities who use this type of system, and detailed information about the financial implications of this kind of change.

Lenore Broughton expressed concern that opening up access to voting erodes the sanctity of the vote.

Upon further discussion, the Board agreed that they could at least offer a response to the resolution explaining their personal feelings on the idea, and could speak to any challenges that would relate to voter registration. They agreed to discuss this at the next meeting, and to come to that meeting with some ideas about what they would like to say in that statement.

**Next Meeting:** May 3, 2016 @ Police Department, Community Room, 6pm.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Amy Bovee

B.R.V. Staff