

LWV OF CALVERT COUNTY

January 10, 2018

Board Meeting Minutes

Attending: Krista Boughey, Sharron Bickel, Pat Hofmann, Sandra Raviv, Margaret Dunkle, Inez Claggett, J C Hooker, Liz Demulling, Janet Ashby, Miriam Gholl. **Absent:** Gladys White, Pat Pease, Roberta Safer, John Perryman, Dixie Miller.

Agenda: Co-chair Krista Boughey called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM. The agenda was reviewed and an item was added regarding announcements

Minutes: The November 2017 Board Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. JC Hooker made the motion seconded by Inez Claggett.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer's report prepared by Inez Claggett was accepted. Inez suggested that a fund-raiser may be a good idea for next year to bolster League funds.

Candidate Questionnaires: Janet Ashby requested that we review the prepared list of candidate questionnaires for additions or changes. A substantive discussion took place in which a number of questions for prospective Board of Education, Board of Commissioners, and Sheriff were altered to better tap candidates' positions on various relevant issues. In the interests of time, the Board agreed that further work on the State's Attorney, Orphans' Court, Register of Wills, County Treasurer, and Clerk of the Circuit Court categories of questions should be submitted to Janet and handled via email discussion.

Janet also announced that training sessions for the 411 Guide will be held on February 3rd or February 10th.

Website: Pat Hofmann and Miriam Gholl spoke to their experience with transitioning to the NationBuilder database; both felt that this program does not serve LWVCC's needs and is too difficult to use, particularly for membership functions. They noted that NationBuilder is designed for large political organizations, but is not appropriate for small organizations such as LWVCC. It is not intuitive. Miriam described alternate programs including Wild Apricot (\$480 per year) and Wix.com (\$199 per year with many free add-on applications). She gave a presentation that highlighted functions of Wix and its ease of use. The Board approved a 30-day trial so that Pat Hofmann and Inez Claggett could examine how well Wix might work for LWVCC. Sandra Raviv

moved and Margaret Dunkle seconded the motion. Miriam will speak with Roberta Safer and John Perryman regarding what they need in a program for State reporting purposes.

Planning Commission: JC Hooker explained that this committee needs more volunteers for adequate coverage of special hearings, some of which are televised and can be monitored from home. Currently there are three members. She referred to a recent survey on cable in which 4,000 were asked to respond but there was no prior publicity for this survey.

Newsletter: Krista Boughey announced the deadline for LWVCC Newsletter submissions is February 1st and asked anyone with submissions to get them to her in time for the February edition.

Lobby Day in Annapolis is February 17th.

Old Business:

Consensus Meeting: Liz Demulling and Pat Hofmann reported on the need for a consensus meeting regarding the State report on Primaries in Maryland. There is a 7-8 page Fact Sheet and 27-page Source Book on the topic. It was noted that primary systems determine the kind of candidates who stand for election. Margaret Dunkle suggested this information might lend itself to a Letter to the Editor in local press. A meeting on the Report will be held at the Leonardtown Library on February 10th which Liz will attend and report back.

Community Meeting on Racism: John Perryman supplied email documentation of the Board approval to distribute notice of a community conversation on racism and white privilege at Middleham and St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lusby.

New Business:

LWVCC's Annual Meeting will be held May 9th, May 16th, or May 23 in the evening.

Sharron Bickel suggested that we approve costs for three important LWVCC functions including Voter Service, Legislative Evening, and the Annual Meeting as determined by the event chairs. Inez Claggett moved and Pat Hofmann seconded the motion.

Inez Claggett suggested that the Board of Elections ought to be invited to a training for voter registration. Pat Hofmann asked for volunteers to assist with voter registration in the libraries.

Committee Reports:

WOW: Margaret Dunkle raised the idea of nominating Ashley Anderson as a young Woman of Tomorrow WOW honoree of the Calvert County Commission for Women. The deadline for an application is January 14th.

Krista Boughey nominated and the Board approved Liz Demulling as our LWVCC WOW honoree. Sandra Raviv will work with Liz on her bio and photo needed for the program.

Voter Services:

Janet Ashby volunteered to serve as the focal point for Voter 411 software and our voters' guide, and John Perryman will support her.

We still haven't received a volunteer for a Voter Services person to backfill John Perryman, who moved to Transparency.

We don't plan to conduct candidate forums for partisan PRIMARY elections. We do plan to conduct a board of education Primary candidate forum IF more than four people apply for the two at-large seats up for election.

We plan a full set of forums in the General election for each competitive race, i.e., where there is an opponent.

Transparency:

BoCC Observer Corps: We're currently tracking the county government's work on the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance as discussed at a Nov 14th work session with staff. The county staff is presently researching ideas for:

- increasing school capacity allowances to above 100% in town center school districts to spur development. (Since town center development can target reasonably price or affordable housing, such zoning can lead people to feel the government is deliberately overcrowding their schools because of income and other inequalities.)
- reducing the time school districts, at or over 100% capacity, can be closed from 7 years to 5 years before builders can build more residences.

- increase the number of residences they can initiate in an overcrowded school district as preliminary development, e.g., right now they can build up to three homes in the development and then stop and wait for the school district to get below 100% capacity. The staff is researching changes like allowing a percentage of homes to be built, e.g., in a 200-home development, build 10% or some other percentage, as opposed to the present three homes regardless of development size.
- The staff is also researching aggregating school capacities and coming up with various formulas for an “average school capacity” which will ignore schools that are over-capacity, thus permitting more overcrowding in those school. The schemes could involve all high schools, or high schools with contiguous boundaries, or all schools, or all elementary schools, all middle schools, etc. Bottom line, it ignores, hides or disguises the overcrowded schools.

The county presently has 3 overcrowded schools, Northern High School, Mt Harmony Elementary and Beach Elementary. Data indicates Mt Harmony is overcrowded because the School Board permits voluntary transfers into the school from other Calvert schools where the student actually lives. Still, while the other schools weren't pushed over the overcrowding line simply because of these voluntary transfers, there are also voluntary transfers-in students in each of those other two schools. The commissioners railed against the Board of Education for permitting voluntary transfers into overcrowded schools and for not redistricting to alleviate the overcrowding caused by the normal ebb and flow of population changes.

I also noticed during the work session one commissioner asked what the developers think of the possible changes. I suggest the staff should also be directed to obtain input from other stakeholders, teachers, PTA, child advocacy groups, etc.

LWVCC Upcoming Movie Events:

Pat Hofmann announced two upcoming League sponsored movies: “Business in the Black” on February 13th, and “Alice’s Ordinary People” on March 7th.

The meeting was adjourned by Krista Boughey at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Raviv, Secretary