

League of Women Voters of Mason County

Board Meeting, December 1, 2017

Shelton Timberland Library

12:30-2:30

MINUTES

Present: Cheryl W. Brenda H, Nancy M, Lynda L, Lynn B, Bobbie S, Cindy S, Amy D, Michelle B.

Present Cheryl W. called the meeting to order at 12:33. The agenda was approved (Cs/LL).

Minutes from the November 3, 2017 Board meeting were approved (LL/CS).

Question of the day: Has President Trump done one positive thing while in office?

Executive Reports

President: Cheryl W led discussion of the Mason County budget. To address the large deficit in the 2018 budget, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) passed a measure to divert funds from the Roads budget. Brenda H explained that BOCC tentatively planned to increase Road Diversion funds from \$1.5 M to \$2.0 M for the Sheriff's office. There are 10 or so years of "banked capacity" in Roads,, i.e., the 1% tax increase has not been taken. In a resolution the BOCC on November 28, 2017 voted (2 to 1) to take the "banked capacity" from Roads in order to fund Current Fund expenditures. However, the Roads tax will be increased 10% to offset the funds diverted; this 10% will continue in perpetuity.

Brenda H proposed a new budget study that would focus on two areas: 1) the Sheriff's budget, and 2) the expansion of the Support Services Department in recent years and other offices if necessary.

ACTION: Motion to proceed with a budget study passed unanimously by those present (CS/LL). Brenda will chair the study, and Lynda L volunteered to help with contacts.

Amy will invite Sheriff Salisbury to be the presenter at the January 16 General Meeting of LWVMC. She will forward the questions proposed by Brenda H to the Sheriff to address at the meeting.

The ensuing discussion focused on the need for long-term

sustainable revenue source(s), the possibility of a Citizen Advisory committee, and community discussion of whether citizens are satisfied with the status quo.

Vice Presidents: Cindy S reported that she and Bobbie S had met with Lynn B and Joanne B regarding ideas for outreach. The group recommended starting with a project "Vote Local" focused on getting out the vote. They also recommended a small committee of members who would recommend other outreach projects and outline specific actions. Cindy suggested the group might also request a grant from LWVWA for public education for materials, and/or use statewide materials such as "Power the Vote." The activity would focus on identifying other community groups that are sponsoring events/activities where LWVMC members might go to provide information on issues, engage in conversations, etc. to encourage voter turnout. This would be similar to the Ballots and Baristas event held at Starbucks in Belfair in November. The project could also identify areas of the county with low voter turnout and target those for activities. Lynn B will provide her list of member interests to identify potential members of a committee.

Treasurer: Pat C reported 26 paid members, 5 of whom are new. Treasure balance is \$3,365.04.

Secretary: Michelle B reported there was nothing new from co-secretaries.

Voter Services : Amy D reported nothing new.

Program: Lynda L noted the upcoming December 19 10-11 am tour of the Capitol. Amy D will send out further information re: meeting place and parking options.

January 16 General Membership Meeting, Sheriff Casey Salisbury will be speaker (see details above).

February General Meeting will feature either Victoria Meadows, District Court Judge, or Frank Pinter, Department of support Services.

Possible future topics/presenters: Economic Development Council, with new Director Richard Thomas; Planned Parenthood, a Harmony Hill; Laura Porter on Adverse childhood Experiences.

Lynn B requested that future dates be confirmed ASAP so she can print up meeting notices to distribute around the county.

Member Services :Lynn B requested volunteers to serve as mentors for five new members. She will hold a new member Orientation in early February; Amy and Lynda L will assist with presentations. The Orientation will include people who have indicated interest in League but have not yet joined. She noted that some of these cannot attend meetings during the day, which brought up discussion of having 1-2 evening meetings per year, perhaps held in different locations..

Lynn passed around a list of members who have not attended at least two meetings, and asked for volunteers to contact hem with the message “we miss you.”

Finally, Lynn noted the Board’s earlier decision to leave 15 minutes at the end of General Membership meetings for discussion of possible actions in light of the day’s presentation. Lynn suggested sending out some suggestions/examples of what might be done. Cheryl W will include this time on the agenda for the January meeting.

New Business:

Commission Watch: The next watch will be December 12 at 9 am in Commission chambers,, with post-meeting at Brilliant Moon in its new location at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Railroad (formerly Xinh’s restaurant). Pat C will send out notice. Pat also noted that the last? public hearing on the 2018 budget will be Dec. 4, with a BOCC vote to follow on Dec. 5.

Nancy M requested new LWV pins for new members. Amy has some and will send them to Nancy.

Pat C has VOTE cards for anyone who wants to pick them up. She also noted that it is time to update the TRY brochure. Pat will get the information from Auditor and update this list.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Bell, Co-Secretary