



Minutes from LWV Roseville Area Special board meeting Jun 9, 2021 07:00 PM

Board members present: Barb Anderson, Barb Barany, Wayne Groff, Sherry Hood, Bonnie Koch, Kathy Macomber, Sharon McCord, Rita Mills, Mary Peterson, Karen Schaffer, Florence Sprague, Teresa Wernecke

Absent: Rachel Geiser, Jessica Holz

Guests: Mindy Greiling, Patti Hoffman, Barb Luck

Called to order by president Barb Barany.

1. Adoption of the position of the Equitable Representation Committee which recommends our cities' boards and commissions broadly reflect the diversity of their population, including race, ethnicity, gender, income, age, and other aspects of diversity.
  - a. Motion to approve the recommendation for adoption: moved by Barb Anderson
  - b. Discussion: Sherry took a devil's advocate position questioning the qualifications and capabilities of the underrepresented communities comprised of many by new immigrants compared to long-term residents who may be more experienced and qualified appointees.
  - c. The response stated this position encourages council members to consider outreach to diverse communities for commission appointees. Wayne said in Roseville, for example, the Karen and Hmong populations have no representatives on any commissions. Barb Barany mentioned that a diverse commission would understand the needs of their particular community. Florence spoke of the large employers in this area and their diverse workforce employees live in our communities; meaning the pool of diverse candidates is not just new immigrants.
  - d. Wayne mentioned it's rare for commissioners to be highly experienced in the field of the commission to which they are appointed. They're given information to consider when making decisions, are connected in their communities and bring that voice to the table.
  - e. Unanimous vote in favor.
2. Barb Barany called for a motion to amend policies and procedures in a way that people will know how to conduct advocacy.
  - a. Karen is not ready to move on this advocacy policy without further consideration and discussion. Barb described the policy as developed from State end National procedures on advocacy as we had no guidance in local policies and procedures for advocacy at the local level. Mindy found another good resource in the state of Texas. This local policy and procedure document is aligned with the state and National.
  - b. Barb Barany advised regarding the study and advocacy policies and procedures, the board has not yet discussed the study policy; this advocacy policies and procedures is being discussed first because it is urgent.
  - c. Customized materials, letters or PowerPoints, should be vetted by the board or the action advocacy chair if, for example, letter to the editor, over signature of

president or a committee. They should vet that material. Rita sees a need to provide other avenues to investigate local issues in a less formal manner for new board members. Mindy said there's more flexibility in positions that the league has already taken. In areas where there is no current position it would need to begin with a formal study or brought up to higher levels of the League.

- d. Barbara Barany called for a motion to approve. Barb Anderson moved to adopt the Roseville area policy and procedure document. Unanimous vote in favor.
3. Barb Barany called for a motion to allow advocacy on the recommended position. This is an exception to normal process (to have a vote at the annual meeting) just for this position and is not to set a precedent.
  - a. Moved by Karen Schafer to allow the Board of Directors of LWV Roseville area to authorize league members on advocacy with respect to the new consensus position on equitable representation, to proceed immediately without the necessity of approval by the LWV voters at the annual meeting of 2022.
  - b. Friendly amendment from Bonnie was accepted by Karen Schafer and Rita Mills. The final motion states: Vote to allow advocacy on the recommended Equitable Representation position before official adoption at next year's Annual Meeting, and consistent with policies and procedures for conducting advocacy. This permission is applicable for this position only.
  - c. Discussion: why does this position have this permission? Response—the committee didn't realize the constraints for this project. It has the position consensus, and permission will allow advocacy now rather than waiting till the 2022 Annual meeting in 11 months.
  - d. Barb Barany called for a vote. Unanimous vote in favor.
4. Barb Barany requested a discussion on the advocacy plan; the action plan and timeline created for the committee's advocacy meetings and programming. How will Lauderdale be handled as they are a small community and currently have no commissions. Rita spoke about groups in the Twin Cities that are working on this topic University of Minnesota Extension and Nexus. Nexus works primarily in an urban setting and Extension is working with them to study how you reach communities and generate interest in serving on commissions. Karen suggested that the presentation be made to the four cities with commissions and send the study and letter to Lauderdale. The study doesn't address how to encourage broader base of interest for appointments and University of Minnesota Extension and Nexus could be recommended as a resource for reaching diverse communities and generating interest in serving on commissions.
  - a. Florence asked whether she should reserve program time in December for a U of M Extension program or a meeting that would educate League members and to which the cities would be invited. Per Mindy, for future reference, an educational meeting for League members and the cities could have happened during the study. Mindy recommended that if a date is set soon, that the study presenters could recommend that the cities and those involved in civic committee appointments attend the league educational meeting.
  - b. Barb Barany also mentioned that Roseville has more commissioners and commissions and so much of the study is weighted heavily by Roseville numbers. She stressed that should be addressed carefully with the other cities represented in the study.

- c. Wayne recommended contacting Falcon Heights council member Yakasah Wehyee and Kathy Juenemann in Maplewood as contact who could provide information on their Commission appointment processes. Barb Barany will contact Yakasah and Patti will contact Kathy Juenemann.
- d. The special meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Macomber