**League of Women Voters of Wilmette**

**Board Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, November 14, 2017**

**Wilmette Public Library**

Call to order 12:35 PM.

*Present*: Allyson Haut (co-president), Kate Gjaja (co-president), Lisa Braganca, Katherine Byrnes, Susan Fortier, Susan Gallagher, Eleanor Lipinski, Meg McDonnell, Stefanie Rupp, Anne Sullivan, Gail Thomason, Michele Thorne, Anne Treadway, Lali Watt

*Absent:* Julie Arment, Rebecca Boyd, Peg Cartier, Rhona DiCamillo, Trudy Gibbs, Nancy Hoying, Susan Morrison, Trish Nealon, Leslie Parsons, Tracy Peacock

**I. Administrative**

The October 17, 2017 Board meeting minutes were approved.

**II. LWVIL Update**

Lali Watt mentioned some changes to LWVIL leadership. LWVIL needs a chair of its issues committee.

**III. Strategic Planning with the Wilmette Public Library**

Library representatives discussed library strategic planning and asked for Board input. The focus of the discussion was on community aspirations for the library.

**IV. Twitter Workshop**

Lali presented information on using Twitter. She suggested using hashtags to follow specific issues. Also, she said to consider following the various leagues that tweet - US, Illinois, Cook County, Wilmette. The information that is tweeted is very much in the moment. If you follow these people, then there could also be links to breaking news, through [tinyurl.com](http://tinyurl.com). “Wilmette LWV” is our Twitter name.

Other tips: If you put @ first, then you can make it private. We should be careful with what we tweet. It’s hard to edit. Retweet if your followers don’t already see that source. Quote tweet means that you provide commentary on that tweet.

Twitter is used by younger people. It also connects people interested in the same issues and builds communities.

**V. Affordable Housing Update**

Nancy Hoying provided an update on Affordable Housing. HODC filed an updated application for the development at 1925 Wilmette Ave for the Wilmette Planning Commission Board to consider in January. Nancy could use a few volunteers to help strategize how to get facts out about this affordable housing project and dispel any myths. The LWV could provide a valuable service by promoting civil debate and fact based discussion on this development within our community. Eleanor Lipinski and Anne Treadway volunteered to work with Nancy on this issue.

Allyson Haut said that the website will post the video prepared last year. Kate Gjaja said it would be good to have a legal expert in the area of fair housing law to clarify what the Planning Commission Board can and cannot consider.

**VI. Chamber of Commerce Meeting**

Allyson, Kate and Lali met with Wilmette Chamber of Commerce representatives to discuss the minimum wage and sick time issues. The goal is to make sure that the Village Board decision-making process is good; we hope for what is best for the community as a whole, including businesses. Decisions should be based on data. The League will continue to communicate on and follow this issue in the Finance Committee.

**VII. State of the Village**

Allyson and Kate congratulated everyone on this terrific event that is important for community building. The League does not hold the event every year because it overlaps with elections. Maybe there are some other ways to facilitate more community conversations. It goes a long way toward civility. When the event was over, the officials from different groups talked among themselves, a very positive side benefit. Also, it was a zero waste event.

**VIII. Finance Committee of the Village**

Allyson spoke during public comment regarding the minimum wage and sick leave rules. A subcommittee should gather data and outline an approach and criteria for making a decision.

People will have to be asked to set aside their beliefs and commit to this research. Five to seven people will review it. The goal is to have broad representation from the community, including experts on the issues and experts on how to undertake a good, transparent process.

The Chamber reaction was that the businesses are wary of providing information, so perhaps it could it be provided in a way that is non-identifiable. The local Chamber is not part of the US Chamber of Commerce. The survey included only 23 local businesses out of about 400 storefronts and an estimated 300 more operating out of their homes.

When it considered the issue, Cook County provided thorough research. Wilmette could look at that and see how we are different. The two issues of wages and sick leave must be considered separately. The LWV plans to proceed in good faith and assume the subcommittee will be taken seriously. The hope is that the subcommittee will gather all the necessary information and providing the analysis that should have been done in the first place.

**IX. Website**

The League website becomes better and better. New features will include password protection for members and better video capacity.

**X. Membership**

The new member event is scheduled for November 15.

**XI. Program/Events**

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, December 12, 11:30-1:30 pm at Valley Lodge. The charge is $24 cash per person. All guests should send an RSVP.

The League Holiday Party is December 5 and is open to everyone, guests included, such as local officials. Light dinner and beverages will be provided.

At the recent discussion of School Funding Reform, there were over thirty in attendance, including school administrators. The presentation just went up on our website.

An ERA Event is scheduled for November 30 and will include Lou Lang and Michelle Fadeley. There is hope that the ERA will pass in both the Illinois House and Senate, after the elections in March. LWV members are encouraged to volunteer for phone banking to people who live in pivotal districts.

**XII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM.

**Next Board Meeting: December 12, 2017, 11:30-1:30 PM, Lunch and Board meeting at the Valley Lodge in Wilmette**

*Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Michele Thorne.*