

STAUNTON ELECTORAL BOARD

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Anne T. Fitzgerald
Secretary
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BOARD MEMBERS
Glenn A. Graves, Chairman
Elizabeth G. Young, V. Chairman

January 9, 2019 Electoral Board

Meeting Members Present:

Glenn Graves, Chair

Beth Young, Vice

Chair

Anne Fitzgerald,

Secretary

Guests Present:

Molly Goldsmith,

Registrar

Robin Wallace, City Paralegal

Jeanne Colvin, Finance Director

Marney Gibbs

Work Session:

Glenn Graves called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. The Electoral Board met with Finance Director, Jeanne Colvin, and City Registrar, Molly Goldsmith to discuss the Board's budget requests for 2019-2020. The board requested 14 new laptops and discussed the financial impact of possible redistricting. The meeting closed at 11:29 am.

The board reconvened at 11:33am for their regular meeting.

Beth Young made a motion that the minutes from the December 13, 2018 meeting be approved. Anne Fitzgerald seconded. Motion passed by acclamation.

Old Business

Discussion of Polling Place for Ward 1:

Molly Goldsmith, General Registrar presented a report of the voting location of Ward 1. First the Board discussed the locations of the current polling places. The current locations of all five polling locations are not centrally located in any of the districts; this is not unique to Ward 1. It should be noted that the polling places conform to Virginia Code.

Ms. Goldsmith reviewed the minutes from the January 18, 2017 Electoral Board; this meeting discussed the reasons for making the move. Ms. Goldsmith also reviewed the minutes from the public hearing before City Council on February 23, 2017 and the subsequent vote to allow the move.

Lastly, Ms. Goldsmith reviewed the breakdown of voter turnout in Election years 2012 through 2018. It was discovered upon review that voter turnout has actually increased since the polling place was moved.

Beth Young made a motion that we enter into the record the minutes of the Electoral Board Meeting from January 18, 2017, the City Council Hearing and Vote, and the voter turnout data. Anne Fitzgerald seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Marney Gibbs then addressed the Board. Ms. Gibbs stated that she didn't believe the City or the Board were acting illegally and her focus was on preventing any "perception" of impropriety as has been seen in other states. She requested that the Board look at central locations for each of the 5 Wards. Beth Young suggested that perhaps Ms. Gibbs could poll the voters of Ward 1 and present her findings. Discussion ensued regarding voter lists and the method of polling voters. Anne Fitzgerald suggested the Board consult with the City Attorney on how to best proceed. Ms. Gibbs recommended First Church of God In Christ on Middlebrook Road as a possible location for Ward 1.

Beth Young made a motion requesting Molly Goldsmith to ask Virginia Department of Elections if voter information may be given to a private citizen and Anne Fitzgerald to consult with the City Attorney regarding a study. Anne Fitzgerald seconded. Vote passed unanimously.

Ms. Gibbs left meeting, however further discussion took place. The Board members do not believe that there is an issue with the polling place of Ward 1 or any other Ward, as indicated by the increase in voter turnout. Additionally, Ms. Gibbs is the only citizen to voice a concern, although her concerns don't appear to be substantiated by anything she has presented or anything the Board has seen/heard, however the Board would continue to look into the matter and reconvene to discuss its findings.

New Business

Matters From the Registrar:

- Ms. Goldsmith requested that the board register for the Virginia Electoral Board Association March Meeting.
- Ms. Goldsmith will be out of the office on January 30th for a regional General Registrar meeting.
- Retirement Community Visits: Beth Young and Molly Goldsmith will visit the retirement communities in the City to conduct information sessions.
- 2019-2020 Election schedule was reviewed.
- Glenn Graves will send out Poll Location letters.

Election of the Officers for the Electoral Board:

- Beth Young made a motion to nominate Glenn Graves as Chair. Anne Fitzgerald seconded. Glenn voted by acclamation.
- Glenn Graves made a motion to nominate Beth Young as Vice-Chair and Anne Fitzgerald as Secretary. Vote passed by acclamation.

Officers of Election Training will be scheduled at a later meeting. Mr. Graves reported that the Board will instruct Chief Officers to put partitions on multiple tables in the polling places. The Board will also instruct all Officers of Election to keep their phones off unless on break.

The next board meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 5th at 3pm in the Caucus Room at City Hall.

Ms. Young motioned to adjourn. Mr. Graves seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Taetzsch Fitzgerald
Secretary, Staunton Electoral Board