League of Women Voters of Winchester

Minutes of Steering Committee meeting – Tuesday, December 27, 2016

Patty Shepard, host – 14 W. Chardon Rd.

Facilitator, Susan Woodward; Secretary, Judy Blaine. Present: Vicky Coccoluto, Jan Dolan, Nancy Schrock, Patty Shepard, Robin Wolf,. Not present: Lauren Costello, Mary McKenna, Elinor Quill.

Patty called the meeting to order at 7:12.

Minutes of the November 29 meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s report by Nancy. The budget is year-to-date. Nancy said we are on target and under budget in some areas. The Moveable Feast was more costly than budgeted. We needed to plan for more attendees than usual because of the Judy Muggia Civic Leadership Award presentation. Nancy read a draft of the Enka grant request for the banners we hang at election time. She will ask for $940 but would be happy with $640. $940 would provide $300 for a replacement banner if needed. The committee approved the proposal.

Membership – Vicky reported 76 active members for 2016. As of today 47 have renewed. 29 have not. Vicky will send off “urgent” renewal notices. We have 4 new members, 2 lapsed members who have rejoined, for a total of 53 members as of today. Offsetting factors might be election fatigue (possibly offset by renewed enthusiasm to get to action?). Vicky will call non-renewed members, with help from SC members. The final report to National is due January 31.

Communications – Nancy said it is problematic that Mary Anne Haroldson is still on the PayPal account, but proposed not changing that until after the communications committee meets again. The committee will also address problems with archived files on Wild Apricot, with pictures overlapping on FaceBook, and with DropBox.

Moveable Feast - Jan - A great success. Judy Muggia was pleased with the award presentation. Stop & Shop cake (donated) was ordered the day before, and was fine. There was food left over – the firemen were happy to take it! They were very helpful during the whole event. Bill Ryerson’s and Susan Woodward’s photos were published in the Times-Chronicle. Jan suggested creating a more specific set of directions, i.e. a manual, for future people in charge of the Moveable Feast. Jan offered to work on it. Next year’s feast, according to the usual rotation, should be at the library.

Charter School Consensus Meeting – Patty - Date is Sunday afternoon January 8, 2017, 1 –4 PM at Sanborn house. So far 7-8 non-SC members have RSVP’d that they will attend. Patty expects more people to show up. Patty will bring and set up the projector. Arlington will bring food and we will bring drinks. Vicky will bring nametags. Nancy will bring easel and paper. Arlington will bring a check payable to Sanborn House. Jan and Elinor will come between 12 and 12:30. Jan will bring bottles of water; Patty will bring other drinks; Jan and Robin will bring cups and napkins. We will not serve tea or coffee. Patty will bring some summary sheets for attendees who may not have brought their own copies. Robin will be the recorder. Nancy will be at the easel. Judy will be timekeeper. Tables will probably already be set up, but we may need to get chairs out. SC should be there around 12:30. Patty and Nancy will be there at 12. Vicky will bring minimal membership sign-up materials.

Hot Topic – Downtown Winchester Train Station - Mary McKenna is working on it. Nancy volunteered to assist.

January Brainstorming Meeting - (formerly Brainstorming Brunch) – The committee agreed on the date of Tuesday, January 24, 7:00 – 9:00 for the meeting. Judy offered to host it. An e-mail will go out to the membership after the consensus meeting (to avoid any possible confusion between the two meetings). Vicky will run the meeting. She and Susan will be part of a subcommittee for the event. Vicky will also try to get a new member on the subcommittee.

Follow-up on inquiries for other possible programs -

All-day kindergarten: Vicky tried to contact Meredith Conway and talk about a possible hot topic of full-day kindergarten and earlier school start times. Patty suggested that FAN might be an appropriate resource for that program.

Environmental Action and Advocacy Steering Committee: Susan asked Ruth Trimarchi, who said she would be happy to represent us on that committee.

Represent Us (RU): Patty explained that this is a non-partisan group sponsoring state-wide anti-corruption laws (in many states). RU proposes to ask the town to take a position to encourage the state to pass tough anti-corruption laws.

New Business – Nancy needs to know when the town election will be held, so that she can put it on our calendar.

Nancy suggested a hot topic – a forum on how one becomes a town meeting member. She suggested reaching out to groups in town such as the MultiCultural Network and the Winchester School of Chinese Culture. Apparently Winchester Inclusive (do I have this group correctly named?) is doing this on Friday, January 26 from 7-9 PM. WIN is a FaceBook group. People must be approved to join the group. Can the League join this group?

Civic Award - Patty said we should start the Civic Award process.

WFEE Trivia Bee - there was some discussion about whether non-profits can give money to non-profits. Can members give a “restricted gift” to the League specifically for the WFEE trivia bee? We won’t sponsor a team as an organization but Robin suggested individuals pay their own share. Robin has SC support to recruit people for a Trivia Bee team. Entry fee is due January 13. Vicky suggested recruiting at the consensus meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Judy Blaine