

Takoma Park's board of elections met on 2/4/2019 at 7500 Maple Avenue in Takoma Park, Maryland. Present: Brian Ernst (board chair); Arthur David Olson (board vice chair); Greg Lebel (board member); Lori Grazio (board member); Curtis Antonucci (board member); Jessie Carpenter (city clerk); Irma Nalvarte (deputy city clerk).

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

We approved the meeting agenda.

We improved and approved the minutes of the 1/7/2019 meeting.

Jessie reported on a 1/17/2019 meeting with county election staff. The conversation included handling same-day registration (so that folks need only register once). Folks at the meeting felt it would be useful to have the city's early voting be on the same days and with the same hours as the county's early voting. Folks at the meeting discussed handling of absentee ballot applications. County folks offered to take city ballots for use of city voters who show up at county election headquarters on election day. The head of the county's election staff wants a revised memorandum of understanding with more detail, and wants to wait until new county board members are in place before taking the memorandum to the county board. The state is going to use different poll books in 202; the county may not be able to provide poll books to us for that election. The head of the county's election staff was surprised at a state requirement to provide information for pool books 60 to 90 days in advance. Jessie is waiting on getting a written recap from the county staff before taking further steps. Jessie is feeling positive about the prospect of side-by-side elections.

Jessie hopes the board will consider the matters of scanners, poll books, and accessible voting equipment sooner rather than later.

We continued our review of the city's charter and code provisions regarding elections. We agreed to change references to "Chairperson" and "Vice Chairperson" to "Chair" and "Vice Chair." We agreed to revise a recommended addition to 5.16.020(D) on ballot corrections when machine voting is in use. Brian noted that other jurisdictions scan absentee ballots before election day; given how the equipment works, officials in those jurisdictions might not know vote counts until all ballots have been scanned. We agreed that no recommended changes are needed to city law regarding recounts. Brian undertook to prepare a final version of our recommendations for consideration at our next meeting.

Arthur David undertook to draft a response to correspondence regarding Tideman's Alternative election methodology.

We began consideration of scheduling for our 2020 election work. Jessie plans to contact vendors soon on what the city's options are for election equipment. Jessie noted that a state calendar for the 2020 election is to be made available soon. Arthur David undertook to determine dates of 2019 and 2020 election events (including festivals and such). Brian noted that some publicity preparation can be done this year to free up time next year; Jessie noted that a new media specialist is on board. We noted the possibility of working on material geared for candidates and encouraging candidacy; Greg undertook to research available resources. We noted the possibility of reviewing election forms. We noted the need for training for both election workers in general and folks heading polling places in particular. We noted the need to address the requirements of folks who don't speak English, especially when they arrive in groups. We agreed to consider scheduling further at a future meeting.

Jessie distributed copies of the board's by laws.

We adjourned at 8:40 p.m., to meet next on 3/4/2019 at 7:00 p.m. at 7500 Maple Avenue.

Brian Ernst, presiding

Arthur David Olson, recording