

Takoma Park's board of elections met on 10/21/2019 at 7500 Maple Avenue in Takoma Park, Maryland. Present: Brian Ernst (board chair); Arthur David Olson (board vice chair); Curtis Antonucci (board member); Jennifer Domagal-Goldman (board member); Jessie Carpenter (city clerk); Kimberly Allen (ward 6). Regrets: Lori Grazio.

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:93 p.m.

We approved the agenda.

We improved and approved the minutes of our 9/9/2019 meeting.

Arthur David reported that at its 9/16/2019 meeting the Montgomery County Board of Elections authorized its election director to sign the city/county memorandum of understanding on side-by-side elections; the city council is to consider approval on 10/23/2019.

Brian reported on 9/18/2019 city council consideration of charter and code amendments to election law. The discussion was lengthy; only one substantive change resulted, changing the submission deadline for recall petitions to 180 days (from 120 days) before a general election. A public hearing on charter election law amendments is set for 10/23/2019; a first vote is set for 11/6/2019; a second vote is set for 11/13/2019; code changes will be considered in parallel with charter changes.

Jessie reported that the city manager has suggested technical changes to the charter revisions; these suggestions were not in the version posted on the city's web site, but will be considered when the council votes on the changes.

Brian and Jen undertook to attend upcoming council meetings on the board's behalf.

Jen noted that the Center for Creative Citizenship's director is willing to seek volunteers for a shirt design if we can provide parameters for the design. To avoid the need to create parameters, we decided against seeking help from the Center for Creative Citizenship; Jessie undertook to speak with the city's media specialist about tee shirts in particular and election branding in general.

Jen undertook to renew efforts to contact Michael Moore regarding instructional and motivational videos for candidates.

Arthur David reported a small but non-zero result of a National Voter Registration Day event at 7500 Maple Avenue (one change of address, a few election worker flyers distributed). Efforts to arrange for the event to be held at Washington Adventist University failed.

Jessie is continuing efforts to arrange for site visits to polling places with county staff; particularly given county staff changes, work has proceeded slowly.

Jessie is continuing efforts to arrange for visits by election equipment vendors. Jessie is researching a simpler alternative to the ballot marking devices used by Maryland counties. Jessie noted that systems using centralized ballot scanning have, in the past, been substantially more expensive than systems with (slower) scanners in each polling place. Curtis noted the desirability of acquiring good headphones if we make use of county-style ballot marking devices.

Arthur David reported having been unable to observe at the Bladensburg election; Arthur David has been in touch with the Greenbelt city clerk about Brian and Arthur David observing there; Jessie undertook to be in touch with someone in Greenbelt about observing there.

We agreed to meet next on 11/20/2019, then on 1/13/2020; Arthur David undertook to prepare a meeting planning calendar for 2020.

We adjourned at 8:32.

Brian Ernst, presiding

Arthur David Olson, recording