

Takoma Park's board of elections met on 11/8/2017 at the Takoma Park Community Center/Sam Abbott Citizens' Center 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); Jennifer Domagal-Goldman (board member); Jessie Carpenter (city clerk); Cynthia Mariel; Susan Rabb.

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

We reviewed ballot-box ballots set aside for review on election night. We tagged ballots as they were reviewed; hand votes were conducted for all ballots to be invalidated; and all invalidation decisions were by a majority vote of the board members present. We invalidated a ballot for council with identifying marks; a board member reported that the mayoral ballot that came with it was similarly marked; we retrieved, reviewed, and invalidated the similarly marked mayoral ballot.

We reviewed three absentee ballots set aside for review on election night. We unanimously invalidated one absentee ballot with an unsigned envelope. Two absentee ballots came from the same address, but with inner and outer envelopes swapped; we unanimously decided to count the two ballots; we opened and examined the ballots, counting two votes for Kate Stewart for mayor and two votes for Ashleigh Nugent for ward 2 council member.

We agreed to count a provisional ballot cast by a voter who was recorded as having been issued a voter authorization card, but with no such card found among those used on the day it was issued; we agreed to have the chair open the ballot and for the vice chair to add its votes to the totals. We agreed unanimously that we were unable to count a provisional ballot for which we did not have a voter authorization card.

We agreed to review election results to be certified electronically, empowering the chair and city clerk to report them if no dissent is received.

Cynthia Mariel described a concern about what Cynthia sees as a violation of fair elections: a poll watcher wearing a shirt with a candidate's name. The city clerk mentioned that aside from the poll watcher form to be filled out, there is little current guidance for poll watchers; the city clerk also noted that poll watchers have not been used recently. Board members expressed their intentions to consider this and other electioneering matters in future meetings.

We adjourned at 9:22.

Brian Ernst, presiding

Arthur David Olson, recording