

**League of Women Voters Mason County
Zoom Executive Board Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2021, 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm**

Attendance: Sherri D., Lynda L., Lynn B., Jonnel A., Amy D., Linda S., Cheryl Williams, Dee Ann K., Cindy S., Carol B., Karen H., Pat C., Bobbie S., Linda W.

Amy D called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm.

Question:

Do you support the proposal to build four hundred (400) low-income housing units in Shelton? The Board and members responded with a variety of questions and concerns: lack of government planning; implementation and decision making transparency; adequacy of contract between City of Shelton government; unknown east coast developer and unclear advocacy for low income families; the location of units; environmental impacts; long range goals of adding more real housing in Mason County and ultimate purpose; long range goals and action pathways to home ownership; proximity to schools and other amenities; financing including revenue generator for county and bank; maintenance of operation responsibilities; per capita rental data for Shelton and Mason County; outcome of Shelton Hills Project and Crossroads Project among other comments.

Treasurer's Report:

Pat C. reported \$7677.82 in checking account

58 paid members

Requests that all be signed up for LWVWA Newsletter

Moved and seconded that LWVMC add the 2021 They Represent You (TRY) Brochure to our Website and print 200 TRY brochures for use with new members, voter services, and distribution to each member, reserving the ability to print more as we need them.

Voter Services:

“As a matter of civics education, providing basic information on big issues impacting our community and encouraging citizens to support legislation by contacting their elected officials.” LWVMC 2021

Bobbie S called about the importance of Civics Education. What really is Civics Education some asked? Democratic action for peaceful and inclusive societies? Discussion was heard about the importance of engagement in government at all levels and how Braver Angeles has been strategically important in enabling all who live here to believe and trust their voice to take action in furthering democracy. A film, Reuniting America was discussed.

League 101:

Lynn B. reported on her coordination and highly collaborative work to hold League's 2021 "League 101". There were 20 people at the 2021 League 101: 12 potential new members, 3 people who came back to review, 6 current members, and out of those numbers we gained 4-5 new members, most were interested in the Climate Change Committee.

Lynn B. reported on efforts to engage and re-engage members who are not currently involved in work of LWVMC, with help from Bobbie S., Linda S., Lynda L. and Linda W. It was reported that isolation, depression, loss connected to COVID-19, not liking or not able to use ZOOM because of poor or nonexistent internet connections were main reasons. All wanted to be connected and very thankful for the personal calls. Most gave assurance that they will be back at in-person meetings. They also found that calling 1-2 weeks before a Program Meeting was helpful, and in some cases they did not have working telephone numbers. The personal touch and connection from Board members is invaluable. Thank you all for doing this.

Programs:

February 16 - Housing and Homelessness with speaker Cynthia Stewart, LWVWA Lobby Team Issue Chair - Cynthia also chairs Transportation and Revenue. She will provide examples of legislation addressing WA State's challenges.

One example is 2020 legislation (HB 1590) passed last year to allow local governments to councilmatically raise local sales tax by .01% for building and maintenance of low-income housing. The need for housing our most vulnerable populations remains a chronic challenge, but as with all challenges, the solutions are controversial.

March 16- Indigenous Issues with speakers Denise Le Clair, Skokomish Tribe and Charles Adkins, Yurok Tribe

As a result of the March 16 Program Meeting announcement, discussion returned to the civics education issues. Cindy S reported on a book she has copies of that may be of interest and has been published by the League of Women Voters Washington "The State We're In" which will be made available at Lynn B. home at a date to be identified, with a suggested donation of \$10.

Climate Change Committee (CCC):

Sherri D. - CCC Chair discussed the comprehensive and urgent work of the Climate Change Committee of the League of Women Voters of Mason County.

LWV-Kitsap is sponsoring a Zoom webinar on April 21, 5 pm on Plastics: The Big Picture, Local Insights and what you can do, with Lori Courtier and Amy Lawrence, Washington Climate Assembly Open House sponsored by LWVWA to educate legislators has been postponed from 2/11 to some time in future.

2021 Critical Areas and Shoreline Monitoring and Adaptive Management workshops are open to public through Department of Commerce here in Washington.

Mason County Planning Advisory Committee will hold public workshop on 2/22/21 at 6 pm for periodic update of the Shore Line Master Program

Climate Change Committee of LWVMC has moved 2/25 meeting to an earlier date, 2/18 at same time, 11:00 am-Noon. Speakers will be Mary Birchem and Aerial Wauhob, Capital Land Trust talking about Bayshore Preserve and Student Education. This is another kind of Civic Education.

Possible Future MEETINGS of the Climate Change Committee: (1) Puget Sound Partnership, (2) Skokomish Tribe Natural Resources, (3) Mayor in Texas who want to be there first in the country to get all of the cities electricity from the wind and the sun. (4) Reach out to Roslynne Reed, Skokomish Tribe Natural Resources Staff

EDUCATION IDEAS for our local community and CCC:

A Brainstorm Forum on these questions: (1) "What are your County and City Climate Change Concerns, (2) What kind of Rezoning of Shelton or Mason County would you support that is based on a well-developed collaborative and comprehensive Climate Change plan for all people and animals; (3) What are your Positive future Visions for Shelton and Mason County?

An Interview with Mason County/City of Shelton Planning Departments

Partner Climate Education with University of Washington Program on Climate Change.

LETTERS to the **Mason County Journal** on WA Climate Assembly and Clean Fuel Standards. Please email CC any you submit Mason County Journal to Dee Ann K and Carol B.

Program Planning for LWVWA (2021-2023)

Suggestions due 2/25/21

1. GMA Study relevant to Climate Change
2. Current measures to shore up democracy -Voting Rights Restoration, Citizen Initiative Review, Ranked Choice Voting
3. Environmental Justice – examining and mitigating the effects of environmental degradation on vulnerable population groups

4. A Study of Extremist Groups
5. The Digital Divide – how it impacts MC and what can be done to alleviate its effects

Dee Anne Kline and Cheryl Williams will take the lead on Speak Up Training – a guide to testifying more effectively, specifically on re-districting.

Amy Davis adjourned the meeting at 2:40.

Respectfully submitted by Jonnel Anderson

III