

Bay Area League Board of Directors
Minutes
November 9, 2020
Via ZOOM
Eighth Month of COVID-19 Stay-in-Place

1. **Call to order by VP Madeline Kronenberg:** Attendees: VP Administration, Madeline Kronenberg; Secretary, Mary Ann Benson; Treasurer, Leslie Stewart; Board Members: Housing/Social Policy, Roma Dawson; Regional Government, Kathleen Cha; Transportation, Alex Starr; At large, Margo McGlone; Voter Service, Veda Florez; Communications, vacant; Guests, *Monitor* editor Alec MacDonald; Visitors: Former BAL President, Linda Craig, Ken Bukowski. President, Sherry Smith and Natural Resources, Eric Arens absent due to power outage.
2. **Approval of the minutes** - Minutes of October 12, 2020 approved.
3. **Treasurer Report** - Sent prior to meeting. Leslie reported that the taxes have been filed. Cheers to Leslie. Two Leagues still have outstanding per member payments due. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.
4. **Monitor** – Alec reported that this will be a detailed discussion of plans for the Monitor and will be information only, asking for advice. As we know the Monitor's in financial straits. MTC has reduced their \$25,000 donation to \$15,000 and they are probably moving towards \$10,000. The Air District contributes \$15,000 per year. We have been experiencing deficits and have run through reserves. Veda noted that MTC has all its contract people in one basket. She feels we could get a better deal with a personal meeting. Alec will step down after the last printed edition scheduled for June, after being with the Monitor for 15 years. The printing and mail costs are about \$19,000. It makes sense to preserve the weekly Notes on line and on the website. There are 1,750 subscribers on line. Mail Chimp will charge more when the number reaches 2,000. Cecily is willing to write, but doesn't want to manage the other writers and handle the on-line details. Leslie said she also would be pulling back after this volume. She has good connections with the Air District. Alec said we need someone with experience to oversee and mentor. He will go to funders to explain changes. Alex suggested finding someone who is working from home and has personal contacts, and that s/he should probably attend Board meetings. Leslie said we need a business plan with a manageable scope. Kathleen suggested that the Communications Committee should look into this at their next meeting. This will be a major discussion point at our December 14 Board meeting.
5. **League Day, March 6, 2021** – Roma reported that the committee is working on a theme. Ideas: Looking Back; Moving Forward; Equity Issues; Structural Racism in Government and Police. Planning a series of panels with Fred Blackwell of the SF Foundation as a keynoter or speaker. Board approved. Ann noted that with Zoom we can look for speakers from all over the country. Veda recommended a book: *Finding Latinx* by Pala Roma with the author a possible speaker. Veda questioned the use of "structural racism" feeling that "racism" was bolder. Leslie said this is the third part of a series of League Days: first looking at diversity, equity and inclusion; second, background of the League; and third, how to put it together and move ahead. The Board was asked to e-mail thoughts to Roma or Margo.
6. **LWVBA Website** – Discussion ensued concerning MyLO (My League Online). Although some limitations were found there was good support. Roma noted that we need no break in continuity. Ann and Veda reminded that the website agreement and domain name expire soon. Veda offered to help the new person become comfortable on line. Veda was thanked for her years managing our creative website.

Madeline moved and Margo seconded that the Communications Work Group oversee the Website change to MyLO. Passed unanimously.

7. Community Dialogue on Regional Decisions, Saturday, November 21, 10 am – 12 Noon, Zoom.

Roma reported that this will create pathways to a series of meetings. It will begin with a welcome from LWVBA President Sherry Smith and introduction of LWVBA Board members.

Panel 1: Linda Craig and Diz Swift will define LWVBA and give a brief history of LWVBA involvement in regional issues: Planning, Housing, Transportation. Today LWVBA provides observation of MTC, ABAG and other regional organizations. Looking forward to subjects like Climate Change/ Climate Emergency.

Panel 2 – Presenters Kathleen Cha and Diz Swift. State actions affecting Bay Area regarding housing, land use, transportation and sustainability with Climate Change – Plan Bay Area 2050. How the intersection of these topics is translated into legislation, regulations and other initiatives.

15 minutes to answer questions/comments in chat.

Panel 3 – Current Regional Plans Impacting Local Communities – Plan Bay Area and RHNA.

Presenter: Dave Vautin ABAG/MTC staff (to be confirmed). Power point outlining Plan Bay Area and implications for housing, equity, anti-displacement and environmental justice.

Presenter: Carlos Romero/Urban Ecology/Member of Housing Methodology Committee.

RHNA – Regional Housing Needs Allocation, HCD – Housing and Community Development. Review local community concerns, misconceptions and implications of LWVBA positions.

Board Comments: Alex: 1. Need a time clock, 2. LWVBA can work with other groups, 3. The Bay Area League can have more impact than Local Leagues. Roma: 2 more committee meetings planned to organize details. Concern about getting information out to all Leagues perhaps with agenda to Presidents. Plan Bay Area has been adopted. How does the community get involved? Roma: This is a very hot topic – perhaps for League Day in May.

8. **Communications Workgroup** – Leslie has a temporary webmaster. Perhaps Board Briefs should go to League Presidents.
9. **Nominating Committee** – Ann reported the committee is working to find a secretary and a communications chair. Chair should be serving on Board, and possibly other Workgroup members as well.
10. **Council May Date (?)** Discuss at next meeting.
11. **Regional Observers** – No reports.
12. **Workgroup reports** – See reports above
13. Adjourned to December 14, 10 am, Zoom meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Benson
Secretary