MINUTES

City of Charlottesville Electoral Board
Meeting of July 19, 2022

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday July 19 in the office of the Charlottesville General Registrar. Those present were Electoral Board members Jon Bright (Chair), Anne Hemenway (Vice Chair) and Jim Nix (Secretary), and Director of Elections and General Registrar Taylor Yowell.

On a motion by the Vice Chair the agenda was unanimously approved without change.

On a motion by the Vice Chair the minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved without change.

Public Comment

Mr. Jeremy Jones, representing the Charlottesville Democratic Party, was present and asked that the Board discuss the option of Sunday early voting for the upcoming election.

Discussion Items

UVa Research – Mr. Michael Gilbert, a member of the UVa Law School faculty, has written requesting support for a project that is a component of a program by the Pew Charitable Trust to study aspects of election administration during the 2022 mid-term elections. Specifically, he would like to survey poll workers in Charlottesville and other jurisdictions on their experiences before and after the election. The Board members and the Registrar are supportive of this effort and Ms. Yowell will contact Mr. Gilbert to work out details of conducting the survey while protecting the privacy of the election officials' email addresses.

Budget Review – Ms. Yowell provided the Board members with a summary report on the budget and actual expenses for the fiscal year that ended on June 30. The report showed a significant surplus for the year due mainly to the unexpected cancellation of the June primary. Some increase in salary costs is likely now that all office positions are full-time with benefits, but a surplus is anticipated for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Purchase of New Electronic Pollbooks – Ms. Yowell confirmed that the KnowInk electronic pollbooks order had been placed before the end of the last fiscal year and that delivery is anticipated in late July. Technical details regarding establishment of an Apple Business Manager Account remain to be finalized but acceptance testing and training are tentatively scheduled for the second week in August.

Reprecincting – Ms. Yowell presented the Board members with copies of a draft precinct map prepared by Ms. Molly Murphy, Charlottesville GIS analyst, based on the Board's recommendations. Two slight changes were found necessary, and an updated draft will be disseminated to the members of the reprecincting work group chaired by the Board Vice Chair. A meeting of that work group to review the proposal is anticipated for early August. Public hearings and City Council approval will be required for establishment of the new precinct configuration, which will almost certainly not occur until after the November 8, 2022 general election.

Sunday voting – The Charlottesville Democratic Party has once again asked the Board to consider opening for early voting on at least one Sunday during the 45-day early voting period. The costs associated with Sunday voting would be minimal, but the Board members are concerned about the burden on the staff when the office is already open for six days a week in the final weeks before the election. The League of Women Voters has also requested Sunday voting but there has not been interest expressed by voters. Last year, early voting was expanded to include Thursday evenings but very few voters took advantage of this opportunity. The Board agreed to postpone a decision on this question until the August meeting.

The next meeting will be held in the office of the Charlottesville General Registrar starting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday August 16, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

James Nix, Secretary

Jon Bright, Chair

Anne Hemenway, Vice Chair