

Election Commission

Virtual Meeting

September 20, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mike Seufert called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Mike Seufert called roll.

Members Present: Scott Irvin, Bill McCartin, Molly Barrett, Lori Gimelshteyn and Mike Seufert

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk; Kendall Koca, Senior Development Project Manager; Tristen Sheptock, City Clerk Analyst

Approval of Agenda: Lori Gimelshteyn motioned to approve the agenda, Bill McCartin seconds. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: Bill McCartin motioned to approve the 7-19-2023 minutes, Lori Gimelshteyn seconds. Motion passed. Bill McCartin motioned to approve the 8-16-2023 minutes, Molly Barrett seconds. Motion passed.

General Business:

Voter Engagement Discussion: Lori presented on voter engagement addressing low voter turnout in municipal elections. She stated CM Marcano believed that low voter turnout was due to voter fatigue. Some other possible reasons for lower turnout may be higher immigrant populations in Aurora, barriers to participation, and other issues. Lori recommended educating the public, increasing awareness of responsibilities as citizens, increasing citizen engagement, and supporting our community. Lori posed the question whether the Commission should or should not pursue this. Kadee explained there is already a Civic Engagement Commission and Academy in Aurora and cautioned in duplicating the work and goals. Scott suggested it was a good idea to collaborate with the Civic Engagement Commission due to intercepting goals. Tristen explained he has been in contact with the Civic Engagement Commission and other boards to begin discussions on increased voter engagement. Lori agrees that a collaborated effort would be best.

Lori recommended a pilot study and educational program for increased voter engagement. Scott questioned how the Commission would get the people for the study and what would be the criteria. Mike recommended that the Commission focus more on specific groups to increase voter engagement rather than trying to go in very broad. Kadee cautioned against a pilot study and recommended that they use city resources and departments to increase voter engagement, such as Communications, Office of Immigrant Affairs, etc.

Bill suggested the next step was for the Commission to conduct a brainstorming meeting with the other boards to see what their next steps would be. Scott agreed. Lori concluded her presentation with the desired outcomes, to include active citizens with pride in their city, increased participation on boards, increased voter turnout and unity in the community. Kadee confirmed that she will get with various city departments, invite them

to the next meeting, and then have discussions with the commission at the next meeting. In November, the Commission would collaborate with other boards to discuss collaboration efforts for increased voter engagement.

Miscellaneous Items:

Election Updates: Molly sent an updated list of all the candidates for the 2023 ballot. Bill asked where the strong mayor ballot stands. Kadee explained that the protest hearings have concluded, and she is working on her final determination of sufficiency. Bill also asked if Douglas, Adams, and Arapahoe counties have gotten back with times regarding their integrity and accuracy testing. Kadee explained that no definite dates have been sent but when they are she will let the Commission know.

Adjournment: Motion by Bill to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Molly. The meeting is adjourned at 7:07 p.m.



Bill McCartin, Member