

Election Commission

Hybrid Meeting

November 15, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mike Seufert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Mike Seufert called roll.

Members Present: Mike Seufert, Bill McCartin, Molly Barrett

Members Absent: Scott Irvin, Lori Gimelshteyn

Staff Present: Cecilia Zapata, Deputy City Clerk; Tristen Sheptock, City Clerk Analyst; Natasha Campbell, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Project Coordinator

Outside Members Present: Gerald Brewer, ReAct Member; Chartashia Miller, ReAct Member; Junita Audre, Aurora Commission for Older Adults Member; Karen Jorgensen, Aurora Commission for Older Adults Member; Fran Dollard, Aurora Commission for Older Adults Member

Approval of Agenda: Mike Seufert motioned to approve the agenda; Molly Barrett seconds. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: Bill McCartin motioned to approve the 10-18-2023 minutes; Molly Barrett seconds. Motion passed.

General Business:

Voter Engagement Discussion: Bill McCartin began recapping the turnout of the recent election, and that the Commission is looking to increase voter engagement. He explained that the commission wanted to coordinate with other boards on their ideas to increase voter engagement. Introductions were made of all present.

Chartashia Miller stated she believes that the community only sees candidates when they are running for election and not after, and that this could be a reason for low voter turnout. Bill McCartin requested that council members notify outside groups such as the NAACP and others when they will be holding ward meetings so that they can distribute the information to their members.

Molly asked the outside members to present what they typically do during a meeting. Gerald explained that the ReAct committee responds to Aurora's racial equity and critical topics. Fran Dollard explained that the Aurora Commission for Older Adults works to advocate for transportation, housing, health, and many other topics for older adults in Aurora. Molly asked for the primary ways the boards interact with the community. Gerald stated that the ReAct committee holds their own events to interact with the community. Fran Dollard said that the Aurora Commission for Older Adults attends various meetings in the community and are constantly at the Aurora Center for Older Adults.

Bill presented the voting result turnout broken down by age brackets. Mike highlights that youth engagement is lower than the older populations. Fran explained the importance of having the older generations vote as well, and that many feel that their

votes do not count. Gerald recounted that many Aurora residents feel that their vote does not matter. Bill asked if there was anything the Election Commission could do to make people more involved in the process of elections. Karen stated it would be useful if the commission set up tables at the senior center, libraries, and other city meetings. The ReAct committee agreed that having the Election Commission come to different events and encourage others to register to vote to be beneficial. Bill asked if the citizens they interact with understand the setup of Aurora's government. All agreed that individuals could be better educated on the topic. The Election Commission thanked everyone for attending the meeting and discussing how to increase voter engagement.

Miscellaneous Items: The Commission agreed that they will not be meeting in December.

Adjournment: Motion by Bill to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Molly. The meeting is adjourned at 7:19 p.m.



Chair or Vice Chair