

Minutes of the Greenbelt MD Board of Elections Meeting, July 1, 2021

**Date:** July 1, 2021

**Attendees, Board of Elections:** Bonita Anderson, Wanna Coker, Patricia Evans, Steve Gilbert, Toni Mathewson, Laurie Siegel

**Guest Attendees:** Bill Orleans

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm. and the agenda (attached) was approved.

**Agenda Item #4** -- The draft candidate packet was reviewed and the following suggestions/corrections were made.

*Beginning insert*

- At the very beginning of the document (exact location to be determined) insert following sentence – “If COVID protocols require a change to any information contained herein, candidates will be advised.” Other suggestion was to have the City Manager include this sentence in her opening letter.

*Page 4*

- Remove 5<sup>th</sup> line from bottom “Final date to request a mail-in ballot (12noon). November 1.”
- Change 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence in footnote to read “No explanation is needed.”

*Page 5*

- Item 3 add sentence to end of 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph – “Refer to list on page 15.”

*Page 6*

- List of members of the Board of Elections may have to be revised.

*Page 7*

- Correct typo on lower half of page (deadline for returning voter registration form to county Board of Elections) to October 4.

*Page 8*

- Remove parentheses from October 8 in 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph under Mail-in Voting heading
- Amend opening sentence under 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of Mail-in Voting section to read, “If a registered voter has not received a mailed application for a mail-in ballot, an application may be completed at the city clerk’s office or it may be printed from the city website and then mailed to the City Clerk.” Remove the next two sentences and amend the last sentence in that paragraph to read “An application form must be submitted...”.

*Page 9*

- Bonita to check on whether Precinct 13 is still a valid polling location.

*Page 16*

- Rework 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence in 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph two as follows: “Campaign workers should follow election code in terms of their behavior and comply with electioneering regulations.”

No further corrections/additions were made to the draft candidate packet.

**Agenda Item #5** -- Recommendation to council regarding Election Questionnaire

Discussion ensued as to what questions should be included in the questionnaire. A concern was raised that the role of the Board of Elections is not to promote or recommend issues that have not been recommended by the City Council. It was decided to develop a list of questions that could be given to the City Manager by mid-July. Patricia is recording the list as suggestions are made.

**General Info**

A draft of the double-sided postcard notice, which is to be mailed to ALL greenbelt residents, was shared with the Board. Since only one notice will be mailed, it was suggested to put postcards in strategic locations around Greenbelt, i.e., the library, co-op supermarket, Safeway, etc. Discussion also recommended ensuring information on vote-by-mail appeared on the [www.greenbeltMD.gov](http://www.greenbeltMD.gov) (the Greenbelt website), *The Greenbelt News Review* (articles written by the News review staff and/or those submitted by the Board) and Greenbeltonline.org (a general information website), and include pertinent detailed information on the back of the mail-in ballot application or as an insert with the application.

At the next meeting on July 15, the Board agreed, at minimum, to review the following:

- Review list of items to be done, assign, completion dates and responsible party(ies) and list in order
- Set up date and time for police and public works to review location and security requirements of ballot drop-box and to determine wi-fi needs at polling places

Bonita proposed setting up the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month for Board meetings. The Board decided to vote on that after the July 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Submitted by,

Toni Mathewson  
Member, Board of Elections  
Greenbelt MD