

## **Minutes of Greenbelt Board of Elections Meeting – April 8, 2021**

Attendees: Bonita Anderson, Patricia Evans, Steven Gilbert, Toni Mathewson, Laurie Siegel, and Julie Gaebe

Members absent: Wanna Coker

Guests: Bill Orleans

Called to Order: 5:37 p.m.

Agenda Approved: Motion made by Ms. Mathewson and seconded by Ms. Evans to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

Minutes Approved: No minutes recorded

### **Draft Charter Amendment Resolution**

The Board reviewed the proposed legislation. No action was taken.

### **Council Referral – Special Elections for Vacant Council Seat**

The Board reviewed the draft memorandum that outlines their suggestions. They discussed the present law Section 32 of the City Charter, which states, "If a seat in the Council becomes vacant, the remaining members of Council by a majority vote shall, as soon as possible, elect a person to fill the unexpired term. If three (3) or more council seats are vacant at the same time, the Board of elections shall call at the earliest date a special election to fill said vacancies for the unexpired terms." It was noted by the Board that timeframe and procedures of when a seat becomes vacant holding a special election.

The Board proposes if at any time three vacancies occur simultaneously, then the Board will have to hold a special election expeditiously.

The Board is also proposing that where a vacancy occurs in a non-election year, it should be filled, preferably by special election. The Board also does not think a vacancy should be allowed to stand, if it occurs in an even-numbered year. They recommend at Council amend the Charter and Code to provide for special elections and make them efficient and cost-effective, perhaps by shortening the times for filing nomination and campaign financial report papers and for mail-in voting, and limiting the number of early voting weeks and polling places.

Mr. Gilbert will revised the suggested language in the memorandum regarding the number of early voting weeks and the number of polling places for a special election. The Board will vote on the amended memorandum at the April 22 Board meeting.

No action was taken.

**Council Referral – Noncitizen Voting**

The Board decided unanimously to table this item until the next meeting April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Rank Choice Voting Inquiry**

Mr. Gilbert explained to the Board the process of rank choice voting. Ms. Evans suggested a presentation on rank choice voting at the Board's next meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Board of Elections Task List**

The Board reviewed the task list regarding the timeline for publication notices, application for mail-ballot, creation of ballot with unique identifier, and draft candidate packet.

Next meeting for discussion:

- City questionnaire – The Board has asked Ms. Anderson to determine how the questions are derived and follow-up with the Board.
- Draft Mail-In ballot application for Board review
- Equipment/Ballot Cost Estimate
- Special Election Newsletter
- Dropbox location

**Other Items:**

- The next meeting will be held on April 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Submitted by

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk  
Board Staff Liaison