

The Voter



Newsletter of
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BOWLING GREEN OHIO
October 2016 Issue 2

PO Box 873 Bowling Green OH 43402 www.wcnet.org/~lwvbg

MOVIE NIGHT

Wednesday November 16, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Wood County Public Library, meeting room C upstairs
251 N Main Street, Bowling Green

Join fellow League members and anyone else who wishes to come to see the movie *Suffragette* starring Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter and Meryl Streep. In the words of one reviewer, “the show is a great historical drama with a story taking place in a period of time when women’s suffrage was touching most major countries of the world in a big way.” The showing will begin at 6:00 p.m. in meeting room C upstairs (to the right at the top of the stairs) and popcorn will be provided by the library. Limit 25 attendees due to the size of the room. For reservations (required) call the library at 419 352 5050. This event is being done in partnership with the library and appears on the library events calendar.



MOVIE NIGHT *Suffragette*. Wood County Public Library. November 16, 2016
6:00 p.m. in meeting room C upstairs. Call 419 352 5050 to reserve a seat.

Mark Your Calendar

December 15, 2016: Joint luncheon with Perrysburg and Toledo Leagues at Carranor Hunt & Polo Club in Perrysburg. Speaker Dr. Sharon Graber, president of University of Toledo. More details to follow.

January 24, 2017: Consensus meeting on Primary Election Process. This is the last step in a state League study. Meeting will start with a Souper Supper potluck at the home of Ellen Dalton, 870 Scott Blvd at 6:00 p.m. Consensus meeting will begin at 7:00. Snow date February 1.

February 2017: Open

March 2017: Open

April 2017: Public program presented by Education Committee. Date and place TBA.

June 2017: Annual meeting including election of officers and board members and approval of budget. Date and place TBA.

IN MEMORIUM: Margaret Tucker

Long-time League member Margaret Tucker passed away on October 4, 2016. Margaret was very active in the community and in League of Women Voters. Among other services to League, she served as president from 1961-1963. An extensive obituary may be found in the *Sentinel-Tribune* on October 8 and at www.bgindependentmedia.org on October 4.

OBSERVER REPORTS

Bowling Green City Council meeting October 3, 2016

reported by Jean Romans

The meeting started 10 minutes late due to a previous meeting on Complete Streets that ran overtime. All members were present. Mayor Dick Edwards commented on the large number of activities in Bowling Green the previous weekend including BGSU Homecoming. He announced events planned by NIOT (Not In Our Town) on October 17 and 20. Planning Director Heather Saylor reminded people that the next community meeting for the Community Action Plan will be held on October 11 at the BGSU Student Union. She hopes to have the plan ready for a vote by Council soon.

Utilities Director Brian O'Connell initiated a long discussion on the solar project, specifically hiring of local workers. Per Ohio law, 80% of laborers must be local and prevailing wages should be paid. Council president Mike Aspacher has a letter from AMP (American Municipal Power) stating that prevailing wages are being paid--he wants it verified. Two local qualified construction companies were never approached for this project. The city of Bowling Green is 3 steps removed from decision makers so it is difficult to get information.

Public Works Director Brian Craft noted improvement being shown in separation of recyclables. Trash in recycling containers has gone from 35% to 25% by weight.

OBSERVER REPORTS (continued)

The next Complete Streets meeting will take place in 2 weeks, on October 17 at 6:00 p.m. before Council meeting.

Second reading was given to ordinances authorizing the Municipal Administrator to advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts for professional cleaning services for the Municipal Court Building, and authorizing the City's participation in the Treasurer of Ohio's Market Access Program.

Third and final readings were given to ordinances authorizing an amended BG Transit Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy, amending the Codified Ordinances regarding parking prohibitions, and a resolution declaring the City-owned property at 215 West Wooster as open public space. A resolution imposing a temporary moratorium on medical marijuana cultivation, processing and retail dispensary facilities within the City of Bowling Green was not approved.

Observer's Note on Complete Streets meeting prior to Council meeting. Currently six streets are on the list for initial consideration. The focus at this meeting was Fairview Ave and Conneaut Ave. Court Street will be the next consideration. There was "raucous" reaction to having the east side of Fairview between Conneaut and Poe Road be adjusted for safe bicycle riding. Citizens objected to disrupting yards on the east side when doing something on the west side of the road would be less disruptive to the golf course. The city owns that property. Residents already live with broken windows and dented cars. On Conneaut Ave, residents need space for street parking. Some people have two cars and a one-car driveway.

Bowling Green City Council meeting October 17, 2016

reported by Jean Romans

The meeting started at 7:13 due to a previous public meeting on bike paths going long. All members were present. The mayor's report talked of the death of Margaret Tucker and her value to the city. NIOT and the Human Relations Committee were recognized. It is the third anniversary of NIOT, and the NIOT proclamation will be renewed. There will be a NIOT city/campus walk from the Four Corners to campus. More information will be coming about the "Green Space" on West Wooster St.

Planning Director Heather Saylor reported that the Community Action Plan continues to move forward. The second public meeting took place with good audience participation and opinions. There is more information on the city website.

Parks & Recreation Director Kristin Otley reported that the Parks & Rec Foundation's Wine & Cheese event raised \$21,687 for Phase II of the Building on Nature project. A community/family event is planned for Ridge Park on October 21 to celebrate the first birthday of the park.

Utilities Director Brian O'Connell talked about the solar project. The AMP (American Municipal Power) president & CEO is correcting the wage controversy. (See article in the *Sentinel-Tribune* on October 18.)

Second Ward rep Zanfardino gave an update on Complete Streets. Need more frequent meetings to reach decisions. Deadlines for state \$\$ support coming in near future. There continue to be problems for residents on Fairview Ave. McOmber pointed out that the Traffic Commission has the final vote. Another problem is lack of on-street parking in the first block of Conneaut.

OBSERVER REPORTS *(continued)*

An ordinance providing supplemental appropriations for the current fiscal year ending December 31 was given first reading, rules suspended and adopted. First reading was given an ordinance authorizing the Municipal Administrator to contract with the BG Convention & Visitors Bureau for promotion and publicizing of the City and authorizing payment of 60% of the revenue generated by the motel-motel tax for this purpose. Third readings and adoption were given to ordinances authorizing the Municipal Administrator to contract for professional cleaning services for the Municipal Court Building, and authorizing the City's participation in the Treasurer of Ohio's Market Access Program.

Observer's Note: I would like to see a better name for the Green Space. Maybe Tucker Park?

Bowling Green Board of Education meeting October 18, 2016

reported by Jean Romans

The meeting began on time and all board members were present. Special recognition was given to the high school boys golf team and coaches for winning the 2016 NLL Championship, and to the middle school boys cross country team and coaches, also 2016 NLL Champions. Macy Hanus was recognized as 2016 NLL First Team and Player of the Year for high school girls golf.

The special presentation was given by Rob Couturier, owner of The Lockdown Co, about his product, the Boot. See article in the *Sentinel-Tribune* on October 19 under Education for a better and more comprehensive report than I could give about the Boot. Basically the Boot is a product designed to ensure classroom safety in case of a school intruder. (There is also an article on www.bgindependentmedia.org on October 19.)

The Showcase Presentation was give by Jim Lang, principal of Conneaut School, on "a day in the life of our students." The day begins with transport to school from home or daycare. Social time--sign, dance, play games. Head to class. Class meeting, Bobcat Proud, classtime. Math focus. Middle of the day is lunch and recess. Art classes, music, PE, social students, science, IEP intervention. Home at 4:00.

Superintendent Francis Scruci in his report read a statement upholding the right of students athletes to "peacefully protest... perceived injustices happening throughout the country" by taking a knee during the national anthem. This statement was covered in the *Sentinel-Tribune* on October 20 under Local News.

Treasurer Rhonda Melchi shared the 5-year budget forecast. We are currently in the middle of the biennial state budget so state funding for 2016-17 is known. There is no way to accurately forecast the extended budget without knowing what will happen with state funding. There may be a funding request on the May 2017 ballot, with August and November 2017 elections as fallback if necessary. The budget forecast is covered by the *Sentinel-Tribune* on October 20 under Front Page News.

Personnel issues approved by the board included retirement of a teacher, auxiliary service peronnel, and supplementals for high school club advisors; resignation, promotion and employment of support personnel; employment of coaches, and volunteer recognition for Breakfast Buddies and library aides. Agreements with other school districts and with the Wood County Board of Developmental Disabiities for special needs students were approved. The board approved a trip for DECA students to attend a DECA Sports Marketing Career Event in November in Cleveland, and a trip for Model UN students to attend the four-day University of Chicago Model United Nations in February 2017. The board approved a rental agreement with Heartland Outdoor Environmental Education School for August/September 2017.