



Governor's Home Town Award Winner & Cup Finalist

*Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together
A Round Lake Area Community Coalition*

General Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2018

Jim DiDonato called the meeting to order at 8:37 AM at the Round Lake Village Hall Annex.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes from June 14, 2018. Jim DiDonato requested that the minutes be changed underneath the Treasurer's report to reflect that the beginning balance was for May, rather than June. Nanci Radford made a motion to approve the June 14, 2018 as changed and Georgeann Duberstein gave a second. All in favor and motion passed.

Speaker: Voter Engagement Committee

- The committee gave multiple reasons why voter engagement is important for B.E.S.T. and our local community including that a voting community has the attention of its elected officials and those officials are then more likely to represent the concerns of the community and that community services and organizations are more likely to be fostered and less likely to be cut where people make themselves heard through voting.
- 59.12% of eligible voting population in Avon Township's 33 voting precincts are registered to vote.
- Avon Township voter turnout was 66.4% in the last Presidential Election, 9.37% in the last Consolidated Election, and 50.13% in the last General Midterm Election. Avon Township typically averages much lower voter turnout than the rest of Lake County.
- The committee gave an overview of some of the offices that will be elected in November. They encouraged B.E.S.T. to review the elected offices and district that they reside in and to understand the importance these offices have, especially locally.
- Eligible individuals can register to vote year round, but requirements vary by date. Members were encouraged to ensure their registration was up to date.
- An overview of how to vote, where to vote, and what individuals can vote for is available through Voter Power.
- There are very few restrictions on who cannot register and/or vote and many protections for those individuals who have historically had barriers to voting.
- Everyone can do voter engagement! 501c3s are able to conduct many activities including voter registration, candidate forums, distributing sample ballots, encouraging people to vote, and more.
- The long term goal of the Voter Engagement Committee is to increase voter turnout in the Round Lake Area (Avon Township currently has the third lowest voter turnout in the County).
- The short term goal of the committee is to have 35% or more voter engagement in select Avon Township precincts: 18, 24, 26, 27, 28, and 29.
- The committee will implement multiple strategies to meet the goals including educating BEST members on the need, sharing non-partisan resources, helping agencies incorporate non-partisan voter registration and engagement, and asking residents to pledge to vote in September.
- Members of B.E.S.T. are encouraged to join in and help our community vote!

Reports from Executive Committees

President

- Jim encouraged members to review all of the great work that our committees do and to consider joining a committee. The Executive Committee is currently recruiting chairs for committees as well.

Vice President

- Absent

Treasurer

- Jim reported on behalf of Eric that the Audit Committee is in process.
- The May and June Treasurer's Reports were submitted for review.
- Ed Gallagher made a motion to approve the May Treasurer's Report and Mary Vallely made a second. All in favor and the motion passed.
- Nanci Radford made a motion to approve the June Treasurer's Report and Ed Gallagher made a second. All in favor and the motion passed.

Secretary - Google calendar invitations will be sent out for General Meetings, special events and Committee Meetings of B.E.S.T.

President Emeritus - No report

Reports from Standing Committees

By-Laws - No report.

Membership - Jim reminded everyone of the benefits of B.E.S.T. and encouraged individuals to become a member.

Public Awareness - No report.

Reports from Special Committees

Kindergarten Readiness Committee - The committee will be holding an event called Grounds for Change on September 19th. More information to come.

Fundraising

- Letters have gone out to potential sponsors for the Chili Supper.
- Kathy recognized the office of Senator Melinda Bush for becoming the first sponsor of the 2018 Chili Supper.
- The Chili Supper Committee will meet July 17th at 9:00 am at Panera.

Transportation - Georgeann will attend a Project Advisory Council meeting and report back to the BEST Coalition at the next General Meeting.

Dementia Friendly Committee

- The committee is reviewing existing resources and the best way to distribute them to the community. They will be purchasing magnets for the committee that will be given to individuals to document their medical information in the event of an emergency.
- The next meeting is August 6th at 9:00 am at the Avon Township office.

Voter Engagement

- No report beyond what was presented earlier in the meeting.
- The next meeting is July 30th at 3:30 at the Round Lake Area Public Library.

New Business

Various announcements were made from members.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of BEST will be August 9, 2018.