

Parke County Non-Partisan
Committee on Political Education
April 16, 2008

Subject: Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2008

The April 12th Meeting was held at the Marshall, IN Fire House. The purpose of this meeting was an open forum question session with the Parke County Council Candidates. There were 29 attendees including the Candidates.

I opened the meeting at 9:00am with a few “house keeping” items:

- 1) I have replaced Dave Gahimer as Chairman of the Committed following his resignation.
- 2) We still need members to fill the Secretary position opened when Dave Burns resigned to run for Office. We also need a member to fill my former position of Co-Chairman. Please let me know if you are interested.
- 3) Members who do not have E-mail and wish to receive the documents sent out to the E-mailing list can receive these items by U.S. Mail by filling out an address card at any meeting. We will be happy to forward information by U.S. Mail in lieu of E-Mail Please understand that we prefer to communicate by E-mail to save cost and reduce secretarial work.
- 4) Some E-mail materials have been returned to me as “not deliverable”. I do not know if this is a problem with the Internet Service Provider, or whether these people have firewalls that do not permit unknown addresses. If you have a firewall, or Spam screen, please put my E-mail address in your list to allow the mail to pass in. My E-mail address is janders46@aol.com. If you have friends or family who are not receiving our E-mail materials, please mention this situation to them. We want everyone who is interested to receive our E-mail distributions.
- 5) There is a Local Government Workshop on Property tax Reform scheduled for April 25th from 2:00 to 4:30pm at the Parke County Extension Office in Rockville. Please call 765-569-3176 or e-mail spelbring@purdue.edu to register. A copy of the announcement flyer is attached.

The meeting continued with the Candidate Forum:

7 of the 12 Candidates were in attendance or represented: Dr. Carolyn Burns (represented), Doug Falls, Dale Ryan, Jim St.Clair, Mike Strack, Tom Tyler, and Steve York.

Following a short introduction of each Candidate the meeting was opened for questions:

Sara Morgan asked – “What needs changed in the County, and what would the candidates change”.

Don Collins asked – “What plans do the Candidates have for Economic Development within the County?”

Linda Flaig asked – “What is the Candidates position with respect to farming verses local business development.?”

Everett Smith asked – “Do you support the Raccoon Creek Fire District?”

Chuck Davis asked – “With regard to the Comprehensive Development Plan, what is the first step to unification of the School Board?”

Merrill Thompson asked – “Please define your understanding of the relationship between the County Council and the County Commissioner?”

Mark Spelbring asked – “Would the Candidates consider a Food and Beverage Tax for the Covered Bridge Festival to increase revenues? Should a year round tax also be considered?”

Rick Thompson asked – “Will you as a Council Member research items presented to you before making decisions associated with the issue?”

Mary Alice Gregg requested that as new Council Members, should the Candidates win, that they take the time to visit the various Offices of the County Government to understand what they do.

She also asked – “Do the Candidates think that it is acceptable for County owned vehicles to be used for private usage i.e. Sheriff Vehicles used for escort of oversized loads on the highways?”

Each Candidate was given 2 minutes to answer each of these questions. At the end of these discussions the allotted hour of open forum had been used, and I called the session to a close.

We adjourned at 10:35am.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26th at 9:00am at the St. Joseph’s Holy Family Hall in Rockville. The topic of the meeting will be an Open Forum Question and Answer Session with the Candidates for Rockville, and Turkey Run School Boards. The South Parke School Board Candidates were not available for this meeting and both are running unopposed in the election. They were not forgotten.

Hope to see you there – Bring a Friend.

John Anderson
Chairman – Parke County COPE