



Observer Reporting Form

Table with 4 columns: Feature Evaluated, Yes, No, Comments. Rows include: Meeting started on time?, All members present?, Members attentive?, Did members appear to have done their "homework?", Were members courteous to each other and the public?, Agenda sent/posted 72 hours before?, Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?, Adequate opportunity for public input?, Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?, Was background information available to the public?, Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs?

Land Use. One case brought to light a problem with zoning decisions made some time ago. The According to MPC staff member (Dan Kelly), when zoning laws were applied, the areas around RR tracks were zoned industrial. This means that a single parcel may have incompatible zoning and the lot lines may not be consistent with zoning boundaries. In this particular case, the parcel included both agricultural and industrial zoning making it very difficult to balance interests of parties involved.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? No.

Other Concerns: Only one item was not approved. It appears unopposed items tend to go through review process without same level of scrutiny as more controversial items. Cases should be considered on their own merit and criteria for hardship should be considered whether or not someone is speaking against it.

Observer: Laura Cole Meeting: County BZA Date: 11/18/09

Please submit completed forms to Observer Corps Committee Chair

Notes: Attended agenda review before the meeting. Great discussion among BZA members and Law Dept. Good opportunity for an observer to learn from questions and less formal discussion about processes, variance requirements, and specific agenda items. BZA members were very polite and made me feel very welcome. I was recognized as a League Observer later at the public meeting.