

Minutes – February 8, 2023 Shiawassee Dems Party Monthly Meeting

Welcome and Call to Order at 7:04 p.m.: Chair Stephen Schlaack

All - Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of silence for members of the service and others that are not able to join .

Roll Call of Officers: All present with Laurie Cook attending via zoom, all present with Kristin Babel attending late: recording secretary – Becky Perry

Native American Acknowledgment Statement – read by Laurie Cook

Virtual Meeting Attendees: (8) Laurie Cook, Paul Cook, Carolyn Lawrence, Jerry Siddock, Joanne Carlson, Cheryl Farver, Mark Zacharda, Chris Clissold

In-Person Attendees: (17) Stephen Schlaack, Paul Ray, Jan Ray, Becky Perry, Ann Arwin, Bailey Leppert, Danny Miller, Bus Spaniola, Carol Spaniola, Janet Kiley, Kristin Babel, Aaron Ray, Lloyd Swan, Susan Swan, Janet Horvath, Pat Podvay, Patty Van Luven

Stephen Schlaack spoke of the agenda as well as the previous minutes which had not been available at the previous meeting. Bus Spaniola made a motion to approve the agenda, Danny Miller seconded. All ayes. Danny Miller made a motion to approve the minutes, Bus Spaniola seconded. All ayes.

Treasurer's Report: Aaron presented the treasurer's reports. From January, Aaron spoke of a change in cost for storage unit. At the end of January, the administrative account had \$1,341.67 General account had \$414.98 with \$5 in savings for a total of \$1,761.65. Steven Schlaack asked about anticipated charges and Aaron spoke of how final charges associated with rent and utilities were completed. Danny Miller made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Bus Spaniola seconded. All ayes.

Chair's Report: Stephen spoke of the how there was not an MDP call this month because of the convention this month. Paul Ray explained that he won't be attending as the Resolutions Committee completed all their work by meeting virtually. Aaron Ray states he is also attending and can take three passengers. This is February 11th at Huntington Place, formerly called Cobo Hall. Janet Kiley states she is attending as well.

Stephen spoke of committees and how we are planning to structure these with a liaison for each one and filled with membership.

New Business:

- a. Stephen spoke about Representative Slotkin's visit to Shiawassee County. Bailey spoke of how she took a lot of questions from people. Patti Van Luven spoke of how great she did with answering all of them, remembering the questions, her confidence. Bus spoke of how he understands she is reaching out to the local chamber of commerce, city of Durand, more people than we would think. Discussion ensued.

- b. Election analysis from Ann Arwin: She provided printouts for commissioner races, governor race, and state representative battles. Discussion ensued about how results varied from election year to election year, turnout, from district to district. Ann Arwin spoke of wanting the information of canvassers, people who asked for a yard sign. She wants information of these people for recruitment and membership. Paul Ray spoke of how he has a list of people he used for Pasta and Politics, he checked it against the VAN less than two years ago. He can give it to someone that can make use of it. Bus brought up using the VAN as an information source.
- c. Stephen spoke of the MDP convention
 - 1. Saturday, February 11th at Huntington Place in Detroit
 - 2. Carpooling is available
- d. Kiwanis/Red Cross Camel Races on March 13. Deadline is February 19th to register for a camel. The other event is the Durand railroad parade and need to decide if we are going, if we are having a float, and if we are having music. This parade is May 20th. Becky offered to donate the money for the sponsorship of the camel. Ann Arwin makes a motion to participate in the camel races and accept the donation. Laurie Cook seconded the motion. All ayes. Paul Ray asked how much the event costs for people to attend. Stephen spoke of getting back to people with that information.
- e. Bailey spoke of the lookouts program:
 - 1. Attend local government meetings in your community
 - 2. Send a summary of your observations to secretary@shiawasseedems.org

Committee Reports:

- a. Community Outreach: Laurie and Kristin. Laurie spoke of how we want to let people know that there are democrats among them, we are not scary
- b. Membership and Candidate Recruitment Committee: Bailey spoke about how this is so important for a well functioning, dynamic party and trying to recruit top-quality candidates, using data. She spoke of Ann Arwin chairing the data portion of this.
- c. Communications and Technology: Stephen spoke of how he and his wife Emily Havelka are handling this and bringing a professional skill set to this committee.
- d. Finance and Fundraising: Pasta and Politics update – Aaron spoke of how the fundraising committee is already active and has had two meetings since the last monthly meeting. He spoke of the annual Pasta and Politics dinner and how they have agreed that it will be on Friday, April 14th. It will probably be around 5-7 p.m. They have been discussing a venue. Last year it was at Bennington Twp Hall and filled every seat. They are considering six locations. They plan to make that decision at the next meeting on 2/16. They are also talking about invitations for guest speakers, looking at several Democrats in state government. If anyone wants to attend these planning meetings, please get in touch with Aaron. Janet pointed out that there are other things that this committee does aside from Pasta and Politics and Aaron agreed and spoke of always wanting members throughout the year.
- e. Young Dems: Becky is the liaison, NR. Chris Clissold spoke of possibly reaching out to the LGBTQ groups at the high schools, make sure they know they would be welcome.

Good and Welfare:

- a. Saturday, February 18th at 6:00 p.m. there is a chili cookoff for the Corunna fire/police and Stephen is entering.
- b. Aaron spoke of next month's meeting being on Zoom only.
- c. Janet Horvath spoke of food drive next month. Her number is 989-251-4838, please call or text if you have a donation. Or drop your donation off at her porch.
- d. Bus Spaniola spoke of how Elissa Slotkin is planning to run for senate and spoke of people potentially running for her seat.
- e. Ann Arwin spoke of fundraiser for the county fair and how they are looking for silent auction items. She wondered about donating a gift certificate.
- f. Aaron spoke of how last month Governor Whitmer started honoring task force who participated in mission to vaccinate people.

Adjourn: Motion made to adjourn by Bus Spaniola and seconded by Ann Arwin. All ayes.
Adjourned at 8:36 pm

Submitted by Becky Perry