

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY MINUTES

Date: May 12, 2021

Location: Zoom

Called to order: Mark Zacharda - 7:00

Attendance: Bus & Carol Spaniola, Paul & Jan Ray, Cheryl Farver, Chris Clissold, Sue Grigas, John Richter, Jerry Hilliard, Laura Archer, Janae Fear, Debbie Stewart, Tyler Corbin, Edith (Grand Blanc), Gary Jones (Gov Office)

Call to order, pledge of allegiance and moment of silence: Mark Zacharda

Roll call of officers: Present: Mark Zacharda, Janet Kiley, Aaron Ray

Amendment & Approval of Minutes & Agenda: (sorry I missed this one)

Approval of March Minutes & Agenda: Moved: Bus Spaniola, Support: Chris Clissold
No Opposition

Native American Acknowledgment: Janet Kiley

Chair Report: Mark Zacharda - Voter Suppression Bills in Michigan - Reminder to contact your reps and let your voice be heard. Party Events - MDP Legacy Dinner - Senator Rev Raphael Warnock will be guest speaker.

Treasurer Report: Aaron Ray, about \$2,600 total funds.

Motion to accept Treasurer Report as presented: Moved: Bus Spaniola, Support: Laura Archer
No Opposition

Guest Speaker: John Richter - Bingham Farms - Topic: Energy (Renewable and Solar)
Michigan Solar Energy Policy: Net Metering started in 2008. Pending legislation is in progress to remove the cap on net metering. (Net Metering - allows utility customer to install renewable energy system and feed excess energy back into the grid for predetermined price). In 2016 a mandated ended Net Metering. Studies show that solar energy is worth more than the average retail rate, yet consumers are only paid about half that rate. Consumer Energy plans to close more than half of their current coal and oil plants and replace them with solar energy plants providing twice the output. - John's email: energyprophet@comcast.net - GLREA

Gary Jones from the Governors Office: Child Care Legislation has zeroed out Whitmer's proposed allotment of \$400million. Legislature has been trying to distribute funds quarterly rather than based on the fiscal year as usual. Voter suppression bills will be in legislature and the goal is after the governor veto's they will try to get it on the ballot. These type of bills are being used to attack the governor and to effect the 2022 race.

Committee Reports:

Community Outreach: Met on April 21st - Chair tbd - Would like to gather in June to say good-bye to Covid.

Membership & Candidate Development - Plan to reach out to members who's memberships are about to expire. Co-Chair's Chris Clissold & Brian True. We currently have 48 members.

Unfinished Business: Still looking to fill the open Secretary position.

Aaron Ray - Missed deadline to file campaign finance report and was fined \$300. Aaron is requesting permission to pay late fee

Motion to approve \$300 late fee Michigan Elections - Moved: Paul Ray Second: Bus Spaniola
No Opposition

Request by Mark Z for donations to help recuperate this late fee.

New Business: Article in paper: "in his four terms in congress, Moolenaar...has passed 1 bill" Michigan Senate is trying to pass voter suppression bills. Mark Brewer, formerly of the MDP, will join next month about organizing the recall of some of the senators behind these bills.

Discussion about resuming in-person meetings - Janae suggests an email survey regarding this matter. Aaron also suggest a pole or post on our facebook. Paul suggests holding the June, July and August meetings in an outdoor pavilion. Mark suggest having a hybrid meeting of both in-person and still offering the zoom option. Zoom offers the opportunity of getting speakers in the future that aren't available for in-person meeting. Gary Jones suggest checking in with the local health department before meeting in person even month-to-month as COVID continues. He also suggests also possibly including a survey of how many attendees have at least received their first vaccination.

Good & Welfare: Aaron Ray - Thanks to all those donating via ActBlue and thank you to all those who are getting their vaccine.

Debbie Stewart - Enjoyed the guest speakers tonight

Mark Zacharda - Redistricting Commission - Looking for "communities of interest". Mark is wondering about part(s) of Flint being added to the 4th district. Perhaps our party or the community outreach committee would like to reach out to the commission and propose a redistricting plan.

Brian True: Roadside Cleanup - Saturday April 17 @ 9am - Bennington Township Hall

Janet Kiley: Call to Action Precinct Delegates to meet with Team Whitmer - Email has been sent to party. Meeting will be tomorrow, Thursday, May 15th

Webinar about the recycling in Michigan - League of Women Voters - Email will be sent to party with info

Motion to adjourn: Moved: Chris Clissold, Second: Janet Kiley

No Opposition

Adjournment: 8:37pm