

## Minutes – July 12, 2023 Shiawassee Dems Party Monthly Meeting

Welcome and Call to Order at 7:01 p.m.: Co-vice Chair Laurie Cook

All - Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of silence

Roll Call of Officers: Chair Stephen Schlaack absent, all others present: secretary – Bailey Leppert

Native American Acknowledgment Statement – read by Laurie Cook

In-Person Meeting Attendees: (13) Aaron Ray, Bailey Leppert, Janet Horvath, Bus Spaniola, Carol Spaniola, Laurie Cook, Jan Ray, Paul Ray, Kristin Babel, Laurel Robb, Paul Cook, Don Surprenant, Bryce McQuiston

Virtual Meeting Attendees: (6) Jeanne Munn, Joanne Carlson, Shannon Higgins, Muhammed Salman Rais, Linda Anderson, Patricia VanLuven

Bus Spaniola moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and the agenda for tonight's meeting and Paul Ray seconded his motion. All ayes.

### Treasurer's Report:

Aaron Ray presented the treasurer's report. As of July 7, the balance of the administrative account was \$1,183.31 The general account had a balance of \$6,047.31 with \$5 in savings for a total of \$7,235.62. Paul Cook moved to approve the treasurer's report. Don Surprenant seconded. All ayes.

### Chair's Report:

Stephen is not present, so Laurie reported that he will give information on the chair's call next meeting.

### Committee Reports

- A. Fundraising Committee: Aaron Ray reported that the committee is planning a fundraiser at Playing Picasso on September 30. They are considering two different ticket options and will be finalizing those on July 18 via Zoom. They will also be working on the 50/50 Raffle for the Annual Picnic on August 16.
- B. Membership & Candidate Development – Bailey Leppert reported that the committee hosted an event for County Commission District 6 on June 21 and they are currently collecting surveys based on that event. The committee also continues their work of reminding members to renew their membership and sending birthday cards. They have provided a condolence card for Rep. Peneolope Tsernoglou whose mother recently passed away for members to sign.
- C. Community Outreach – Laurie Cook reported that the committee needs a chair and solicited anyone who would be interested in joining the committee and possibly serving as chair.

## Old Business

Laurie reported that we had a good walking turnout at the Corunna Firecracker Parade. Laurie reported on Owosso Pride where the Shiawassee Dems had a booth where we handed out information about the party and collected 44 new contacts for our email list. We also let people check their voter registration. Laurie said that we are requesting volunteers for our booth at the Shiawassee County Fair and was pleased to see how many volunteers have already signed up for time slots. Janet Horvath asked if the hours of the fair have shortened, as they were previously 10-10. Laurie reported that she confirmed with the fair that the hours have been shortened to 12-9 so she split the shifts into 3 blocks per day instead of 4.

Aaron Ray reported that the Annual Picnic is scheduled for August 16 from 6-9. We will have food, a 50/50 raffle and games. Aaron will not be present. He requested that attendees bring food, drinks, and desserts.

Bailey Leppert reported that she has received no new lookout program reports and requested that anyone with new reports email them to her.

## New Business

Shannon Higgins gave a legislative update. The big news is the passing of the state budget, including funding for education. Proposal 2 was passed by the House and Senate and is waiting for the governor's signature. Two bills that will be taken up in the fall that Rep. Tsernoglou has written are the puppy protection bill to phase out the sale of puppies and other pets in stores and a bill to outline guardianship and conservatorship requirements in Michigan.

Laurie reported that we need to choose a date to do the roadside cleanup. Either this weekend 7/15 or 7/16 or next weekend 7/22 or 7/23. Janet Horvath reported that we need 8 people that can walk 1.5 miles and a 9<sup>th</sup> person that can drive. We chose Saturday July 22 with a rain date of Sunday July 23.

Don Surprenant asked how to become a candidate. Laurie stated that you do not need permission from this body to run, you register as an individual. Don does not want to see unopposed county commission seats. Laurie said he would be a good fit to help the membership committee with their work.

Laurie reported that Downtown Owosso cleanup is coming up, but Stephen had more details about that, so we may have to send follow up information later. Laurie reported that Sen. Sam Singh is having a meeting tomorrow at Corunna Library and virtually on August 14.

## Good and Welfare

Bus Spaniola reported that Curtis Hertel Jr has announced he is running for Elissa Slotkin's US Rep seat. He has served in state senate and was an advisor for Governor Whitmer until this May.

Laurel Robb reported that Hill Harper announced that he is running for US Senate as a Democrat.

Janet Horvath thanked everyone for their generous food donations. The next food drive is in November. Laurie asked everyone to stay after to take a photo with the donations.

Aaron clarified that for the roadside cleanup, we will meet at Bennington Township Hall at 9 AM on Saturday July 22.

Adjourn: Motion made to adjourn by Bus Spaniola and seconded by Don Surprenant. All ayes.  
Adjourned at 7:39 pm

Submitted by Bailey Leppert