

Minutes - February 7, 2022 7:02 p.m. Shiawassee Dems party monthly meeting.

Welcome and Call to Order: Chair Mark Zacharda

All - Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of silence for pandemic, front-line workers

Roll Call of Officers: All present; secretary – Becky Perry

Native American Acknowledgment Statement – Mark Zacharda

Introductions, including guest speakers Dylan Huff and Kody Vitale– Mark Zacharda

Virtual Meeting Attendee: (24) Becky Perry, Mark Zacharda, Bus Spaniola, Carol Spaniola, Dylan Huff, Sylvia Avsharian, Eleanor Templeton, Aaron Ray, Janet Kiley, Jerry Alan, Paul Ray, Joanne Carlson, Carolyn Lawrence, Janet Horvath, Cheryl Farver, Patricia VanLuven, Brian True, Janae Fear, Sam Singh, Chris Clissold, Jeanne Munn, Kody Vitale, Jeremy Blatt, Jan Ray.

Approval of agenda and minutes: Mark moved those through by unanimous consent.

Dylan Huff spoke briefly on his background.

There is a special election next Wednesday, the 16th of the county commission to make Janet the chair, Janae the acting vice chair, Mark the co-vice chair. Janet states that she never imagined being the chair, it was not in her aspirations, but she is happy to have Mark running for House and to step into role as chair for the next cycle.

Chair's Report:

- a. Janet attended the chair's meeting. She reports that on 4/9 there will be an endorsement convention in Detroit. MDP is having a coalition building dinner on June 25th. They want people to use the mobilize app. They also have district maps. Jocelyn Benson was on the call last night.

Treasurer's Report:

- a. Treasurer Aaron Ray reported \$3,162.10 in the General Fund, \$258.31 in the Administrative Fund and \$5 in Savings for a total of \$3,425.41. Dylan Huff brought up a question about an expense last year for advertising in a paper that was not an expense this year and discussion ensued. Vote to accept the Treasurer's Report: Bus Spaniola made the motion, Chris Clissold seconded the motion. All ayes and the report is accepted.

Guest Speaker: Dylan Huff. He spoke of his background working with Mark, deep roots in Shiawassee county, how he views both sides of the local levels getting wrapped up in national politics, ways to ignite the left in the final stretch.

Guest Speaker: Kody Vitale. He spoke of his role as a Mid-Michigan organizer. He wants democratic candidates to know he is available to help with canvassing. He lives in Fenton, he will be in Shiawassee county 1-2 times per week to help with these important races. If people know someone on the ticket, it helps up and down the ticket.

Mark encouraged others to encourage others to run for something.

New Business:

Jeremy Blatt spoke of event in Shiawassee County with Elissa. Working on petitions. Brian True is our collector. Working on a petition drive through.

Do we sell our information for money? Share contact information with candidates if they agree to appear at events, etc? Janae Fear made a motion to table until next month. Aaron Ray seconded. All ayes.

Unfinished business:

- a. Janet spoke with Joanne, Janae, Aaron, Bus, and Carol about pasta and politics. They are thinking April 28th with a backup date of June 7th which is the Tuesday after Curwood at the Bennington Township Hall. Discussion ensued about how to get some recognition and pull.
- b. Covid county pay scandal: they had a meeting last week. They picked a buddy of Boggs to replace Root. The other recall efforts fizzled out. Discussion ensued on need for candidates to run against the commissioners.
- c. Campaign updates: Sam Singh already raised over 190k for his senate campaign and plans to hold get to know you events in the near future. Mark introduced his campaign manager.
- d. Issue of republicans speaking at our future meetings was raised. Paul suggests a pre-clearance from memberships before a republican comes in. He presented a motion with his wording that was shown on the screen for members to see. Brian amended that motion. Aaron showed the new wording to reflect the amended changes on the screen for members to see. Joanne Carlson seconded Brian's motion. Roll call vote was held with 10 aye, 6 no, 1 pass. The motion was amended. Brian moved to pass the motion as it was amended. Joanne Carlson seconded. A roll call vote was held and it passed to reflect that republicans can speak at future meetings with approval of the county party officers at a prior executive board meeting.

Committee Reports:

- a. Rules and Bylaws: NR.
- b. Community Outreach: Janet Horvath states that by March 18th people need to have food dropped off to her or you can contribute money (checks made out to Homeless Angels)
- c. Membership and Candidate Recruitment Committee-Brian talked about precinct delegates, he is a notary, May 3rd is the deadline. Schoolboard candidates need to file with the county by July. Chris Clissold said they are having trouble with the MDP updating membership. Mark says this has been an ongoing issue.
- d. 4th District: NR.
- e. Extra-Party reports: NR.
- f. Communication and Technology: NR

Good and Welfare: NR

Adjourn: Motion made to adjourn by Bus Spaniola and seconded by Janae Fear.
Adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Submitted by Becky Perry