

Harford County Democratic Central Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2021

**Call to Order, 7:01pm**

**Roll Call of Committee Members & Associates**

Committee Members Present: Stephen Puopolo, Adam Hiob, Suzanne Oshinsky, Denise Perry, Isaya Mutombo, Carol Bruce, JoWanda Strickland-Lucas, Cordell Hunter, Barbara Osborn Kreamer, Mike Ciufo

Associate Members Present: Zack Frink, Ben Staten, Amina Hall

**Introduction of Visitors**

Ayla Troup (our new Graphic Designer) Waqi Alam, Sabra Kurth, Cheryl Adam, Christina Bracknell, Robb Wilson, Mishawn Smith, Wesyna Davis, Sarahia Benn, Matthew Eblin, Lori Spinelli, Justin Butler (MD Dems), Medford Campbell (BOE), Martin Mitchel, Nasia Kim, Rhia Perry. Additionally, several visitors came in to the meeting later on, including Allison Galbraith (MD Dems) and Amity Pope (representing PG Changemakers).

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Motion to accept Agenda passed.

**Meeting Minutes**

**Minutes of December 17, 2020**

Vote on December meeting minutes had been postponed to allow for revision based on Jowanda's corrections. Motion to accept revised meeting minutes passed. Jowanda requested to have her amendments attached to December meeting minutes.

**Minutes of January 28, 2021**

Motion to accept the minutes carried.

**Special Meeting of January 14, 2021**

Motion to accept minutes carried.

**Treasurer Report**

Treasurer's report for January of 2021 will be attached to February meeting minutes.

**Reports**

**Chair Report/Correspondence**

The redistricting committee members have been selected and will be introduced later on the agenda.

Carol also announced that she will be paying for a Zoom account as a donation to the committee for future meetings. Reverend Hunter offered to pay for part of it as well. Zack and Suzanne will get together with Carol to help her set up an account on Zoom.

### **Vice Chair**

Candidate filing for 2022 is open as of Feb. 23rd and candidates have a 1 year period to file their candidacy till Feb. 22nd 2022. You need to make an appointment with the Board of Elections to complete the paperwork.

The legislative session is moving pretty fast with several bills that affect us locally. The Harford County Board of Education bill that was presented in the house, has been set aside due to action taken by Democratic delegates and 2 Republican delegates that split the vote and slowed down the process to give time for public feedback. The Senate is now offering amendments and has their hearing on Mar. 3rd. You can get the link from Zack. We do not support the Senate amendments, which would give the County Executive the authority to appointment members to the Board of Education, rather than the Governor.

### **Social Media/Public Relations**

Zack explained how to submit testimony for the committee hearings at the Maryland General Assembly. Testimony on SB 382 has to be submitted within a 5 hour window and you need to first create an account. He's prepared a handout and videos to walk people through the process. He would like to create an account on behalf of HCDCC. Jowanda mentioned that Voices is doing work on this and can provide testimony. Zack said that the purpose of HCDCC having an account is to stand with Democrats on the issues and support legislation. Justin said that it is not unusual for DCCs to take positions. Allison said the bylaws are neutral on this. Mike asked about the process, not just for this particular bill. Barbara was opposed and is concerned about who will be involved in the process of putting together testimony.

Motion to develop a process for HCDCC to give testimony was properly moved and seconded and carried.

Ayla Troup, the graphic designer, was introduced to the committee. She is sketching out ideas based on the survey for our new logo. It will take into consideration our preferences for showing a progressive inclusive community that is forward moving and a lighthouse. She will come up with 2-3 options and we can do another survey to determine which we like best.

### **Strategic Planning**

Barbara offered a document which she had sent to the committee after the meeting had already started and requested to go into executive session to review it in private before voting on it. Jowanda, Mike, Denise, Isaya and Adam participated in the strategic planning committee. Carol said that the deadline isn't until March 15th, so rather than take it up during this current meeting, she would like to hold a special meeting on March 7th, so the committee has a chance to actually

read it ahead of time. Jowanda said that the document Barbara was offering was not the Strategic Plan the subcommittee had approved. The draft plan needs to be approved by the subcommittee first before being offered to the full committee, which was not done. Cordell made a motion to receive a draft from the subcommittee, Stephen seconded. The motion carried.

### **Board of Elections**

Kim Sluser is the new deputy director. You need to make an appointment to come in person to file as a candidate and you can file until Feb. 22nd 2022. There are several bills going through the General Assembly that would affect the Board of Elections. First is a bill that requires live streaming of BOE meetings. Another is to expand the number of drop off ballot boxes, and a third bill would allow voters to sign up to automatically receive mail-in ballots at every subsequent election. There is a push for all mail in voting and voting centers instead of having to vote at a specific location, as well as a mandate to have a certain number of ballot boxes available. Medford also gave the number of recent affiliation changes from Republican to Democrat and vice versa or to no affiliation, which has netted some more voters to the Democratic side and lowered the number of Republican voters.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Fundraising for 2021**

Adam Hiob spoke about the fundraising plan which he put out in January for the full committee to review and said if we wanted to make any changes we still have time. Our fundraising goals are about \$6000/year and a total of \$15,000 for before the next election.

### **New Business**

#### **Introduction of the Members of the Redistricting Commission**

Christina Bracknell was welcomed as one of the Democratic members selected for the redistricting commission along with Jim Thornton. Christina introduced herself as a Maryland native and 12 year resident of Havre de Grace with 2 kids and a board member of the PTA at Meadowvale Elementary. She is honored to have been chosen and will work with stakeholders to make a more equitable map for Harford County.

### **Good of the Order**

Barbara shared that her son has been advising Biden on sustainability issues and gave an example of sustainable energy usage in Montgomery county for all electric school buses.

Carol shared that a group has been meeting to take actions against Republican Andy Harris in district 1 and they have a long list of initiatives they are proposing to help get him out of office, for those who want to join them. She also responded to a request from visitors to speak on the issue of Del. Lisanti's remarks from 2019 and said that she had spoken with the Prince George's County Central Committee, that this was not an issue they were taking up at this time and they had more urgent issues to deal with currently and have moved on. Wesyna Davis wanted to read a letter out loud regarding the Lisanti issue, and Carol said no this is not for now and that it can

be submitted to the Chair and Secretary. Wesyna continued to press that she wanted to read the letter, but ultimately did not read it. Amity Pope also introduced herself as part of a group called PG Change Makers and asked the committee to take action to support the expulsion of Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti. Carol reiterated that the committee already took action regarding Del. Lisanti in 2019.

Denise Perry said that defamatory comments had been made about her by the Secretary. She asked that the Secretary be removed from her role on the executive committee for derogatory remarks on Facebook and threatened legal action. The Secretary did not respond at the direction of the Chair due the inappropriate forum for this to be addressed.

### **Adjournment**

Adjournment was moved and seconded at 8:30pm.