

Harford County Democratic Central Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2021

Call to Order, 7:04pm

Prayer, Rev. Hunter

Roll Call of Committee Members & Associates

Committee Members Present: Mike Ciufu, Rev. Cordell Hunter, Barbara Osborne Kreamer, Isaya Mutombo, Denise Perry, JoWanda Strickland-Lucas, Treasurer Stephen Puopolo, Secretary Suzanne Oshinsky, Vice Chair Adam Hiob, Chair Carol Bruce.

Associate Members Present: Amina Hall, Zack Frink, Ben Statten.

Introduction of Visitors

Roslyn Hanbel Bock, was a member of the Harford County Commission for Women, Michael Lynch, volunteered during 2020 election for HCDCC and Mia Mason, Sandy Gibbons, volunteered on campaigns in 2018, Shannon Gahs is on the Board of Trustees for the Harford Public Library, is a practicing attorney and is running for Delegate in District 7, Rashad Lloyd in Prince Georges thinking of moving to Harford, Matthew Eblin, Nolanda Kirby, Sarahia Benn Co-Chair of Harford County Women of Action.

Adoption of the Agenda

Adam made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of Sarahia's report to the Good of the Order. Motion carried.

Minutes of December 17, 2020 & Special Meeting of January 14, 2021

JoWanda offered several corrections to the December Minutes. Barbara moved to postpone consideration of December Minutes till next month and Adam seconded. Motion carried. Special meeting minutes were not yet available, so will be tabled till next month as well.

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer shared the Treasurer's November and December reports, as well as the 2020 Fiscal Year Report. All of the Treasurers' reports will be attached and submitted with the minutes.

Reports

Chair Report/Correspondence

Chair Carol submitted the 5 names selected during the special meeting for the redistricting commission to the County Council. Carol and Suzanne attended the Inaugural Gala along with over 400 Democrats and over 700 tickets sold. Special thanks to the Social Media Committee and especially Zack Frink who put together Harford's video contribution to the Gala. Yvette

Lewis was invited to the VIP section at the Inauguration of President Biden. Reporting on the 1/26/2021 MDDEMS Executive Meeting, MDDems were recognized for significant contributions to the 2020 election, especially our phone calls to Georgia. Chairs for the Diversity Leadership councils have been identified including our own Stephen Puopolo chairing the People with Disabilities (PWD) Council. Plans are underway for a National Voter Protection Task Force that will develop road maps specific to each state. New members of the National DNC were announced as well. Zack will share our video to the committee and on social media.

Vice Chair Report

Vice Chair Adam explained that in order to make sure we are fulfilling our bylaws, he is announcing that we voted during an emergency vote via email to expend \$300/year on Web Hosting and to move our website from GoDaddy to WordPress. The email was sent out to all committee members on Dec. 2nd and votes were received up till Dec. 4th. Seven members voted in favor of this expenditure and switch; two members did not respond. The state party indicated that filing for the 2022 Gubernatorial elections opens around Feb. 23rd and we need to be thinking about candidates. Havre de Grace has their municipal elections on May 4th and the filing deadline is March. Andy Harris is being opposed by several confirmed candidates including Mia Mason, Jennifer Pringley and Heather Mizeur. Adam will send a draft of the strategic plan used in previous elections to the Strategic Planning Committee to help them get started.

Social Media/Public Relations

District 1 DCCs came together to put together a letter regarding Andy Harris' actions following the Jan. 6 Insurrection at the Capitol, which was sent to the Aegis (but not picked up by them), as well as put on our Website, social media and email newsletters.

Zack Frink, our Communications Director, explained the format for the Newsletter which will be emailed out to our list and will also power all of our other communications on social media and our website, so that we have a uniform message across all platforms. The Newsletter will be sent out by email on Sundays so people can put events on their calendars. The goal of keeping the newsletter short and sweet so it is easy to read and skimmable will guide the submission process. Zack will send a copy of the newsletter submission process to the committee. We received a lot of responses for a graphic designer and will be working on a process with the Social Media/Communications Committee.

Strategic Planning

Barbara, Jowanda, Denise, Adam, Mike and Isaya volunteered for the committee. If Carol can she will jump on to the meeting.

Board of Elections

You can sign up to testify about dropboxes and changes that they want to make. Zack asked for information about this to be sent to him.

Unfinished Business

Updated Bylaws

Adam who was on the original committee thanked Barbara and Chris for picking it up and getting the multiple revisions approved. Based on the votes taken in July 2020, Adam will submit the revised bylaws to the state. JoWanda moved to change section 6i wording from “Emergency Meeting” to “Emergency Action”. The motion carried and the revised bylaws will be forwarded to the state party.

New Business

Fundraising for 2021

The executive committee met to discuss the fundraising plan which will be submitted to the committee at the next meeting. We hope to raise up to a total of \$15,000 and will include both low and high dollar events and try to get big names for virtual events and hopefully more in person events starting in the Summer and the Fall. We will submit our plan and ask for input and suggestions in February and approve a fundraising goal.

Good of the Order

Sarahia Benn presented her report on the Harford County chapter of the MD Women of Action. Chair Benn and Co-Chair JoWanda attended the Dec. 3rd statewide meeting along with Denise. Yvette Lewis also was in attendance. A written report with further details was asked for, so that it can be attached to the minutes.

Zack brought up an issue that we are looking into regarding the placement of vaccination sites in Bel Air and further North and would like to write a statement about not having vaccination spread out equitably throughout the county, which affects some older people and those with disabilities who cannot drive and don't have access to these sites. Carol asked Mike to call the health department to ask them about who is responsible and where vaccination sites are and report back.

Justin Butler encouraged the committee to reach out regarding the strategic plan.

The PWD council will be meeting on Tuesday Feb. 2nd led by Stephen. February is Black History Month and the State party will be highlighting a different person from history each day of the month of February.

Our next meeting will be on February 25th at 7pm.

Adjournment

Adam made a motion to adjourn and Cordell seconded. *Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.*