

Harford County Democratic Central Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2021

**Call to Order, 7:02pm**

Carole announced that Adam is not at the meeting because his grandmother passed away suddenly and asked if we can hold his family in prayer.

**Prayer, Rev. Hunter**

**Roll Call of Committee Members & Associates**

Committee Members present: Mike Ciufu, Cordell Hunter, Barbara Osborn Kreamer, Isaya Mutombo, Denise Perry, JoWanda Strickland-Lucas, Stephen Puopolo, Suzanne Oshinsky, Carol Bruce.

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

**Introduction of Visitors**

Visitors introduced themselves: Richard DeShay Elliot, PG County Young Dems; Sarahia Benn, Harford County's Women of Action; Amity Pope, PG Change Makers; Nancy Post, concerned Harford County citizen; Allison Galbraith, MDDems Vice Chair; Justin Butler, MDDems Organizing Director; Michael Bayrd, MDDems Political Director; Wade Sewell, Community Activist; Nolanda Roberts, 2022 Candidate for Delegate in District 34a.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Jowanda had a question about why the Agenda was not made publicly available. Richard and Amity requested the agenda. Jowanda asked to add the PG County's letter to Unfinished Business. Carol stated that would be covered under Unfinished Business. She also wanted to know if censure of herself would be on the agenda. Carol stated that it is not on the agenda and it will not be added to the agenda. Jowanda wanted to add discussion of actions of members of the committee and a discussion about reasons for cancellation of the March meeting. Carol said nothing was provided about the actions of members so this will not be taken up and she already provided reasons for cancellation of the meeting.

*Stephen made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, Mike seconded it. 6 Ayes, motion carried.*

**Minutes of February 25, 2021**

Barbara asked that references to the lighthouse be removed. Carol noted that this was merely a report and had not been voted on.

Jowanda proposed changing the wording of when Barbara offered a document to “which she sent out after the meeting started” and also “it was not the strategic plan that the subcommittee had approved.” There was also some disagreement about the Good of the Order. *April Minutes were approved with a vote of 6 ayes and 2 nays.*

### **Treasurer Reports February and March 2021**

The Treasurer’s report for March 2021 will be attached to the April minutes. Stephen also informed us that we received \$100 for submitting the strategic plan early and this will be included in the April Treasury Report. Finally, Stephen announced that May will be his last as Treasurer, since he will be stepping down from his position as Treasurer because he plans to run for office in 2022 and will need to resign before he files. He will work with whoever replaces him as treasurer to get them caught up and he will still be on the committee. *Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was moved by Isaya.*

Denise claimed that Suzanne was muting Denise and not allowing her to vote. Carol explained that Zack is in charge of the meeting controls. Zack said he is not muting anyone. There might be connectivity issues and to try using the Zoom app on their phone.

### **Reports**

#### **Chair Report/Correspondence**

Adam’s family would like donations to the Osteotomy Foundation in lieu of flowers and Carol will send a condolence letter on behalf of the committee. *Suzanne moved and Stephen seconded to donate \$36 to the Osteotomy Foundation in memory of Shirley Ann Mitchell of Havre de Grace. The motion passed.* The Chair’s report will be attached to the minutes.

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

The Logo will need to get final approval from the subcommittee before being submitted for a vote to the full committee. Feedback was solicited through a survey and also requested at the present meeting. The survey indicated that most of the people who filled it out preferred the 3rd version with a lighthouse and map of the county. However, not everyone on the committee filled out the survey. Barbara offered that the concept of moving forward (version 1) was good but not the same as “working for the common good” and the lighthouse logo (2 and 3) was not general enough for depicting the county and was also not about the common good. Zack said that once we have a vote on the logo we will have a palette from the designer.

#### **Vice Chair**

The Vice Chair was not present, but Carol informed us that he has been working on securing a spot for the First Friday events in Havre de Grace which will cost \$100. *Stephen made a motion to participate in First Fridays in Havre de Grace at a cost of \$100. Isaya seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

Amity wanted to ask a question, but Carol said that we are trying to get through the agenda and there will be time at the end of the meeting for public comment and questions. The chat notifications kept popping up and Stephen asked if those attending could quiet down in the chat so that he could see the closed captions, instead of having it obscured by the chat popping up.

### **Strategic Planning**

No Report given.

### **Board of Elections**

No Report given.

### **Unfinished Business**

Prince George's County Young Democrats (PGCYD) Letter dated January 25, 2021 and received via email from JoWanda Strickland-Lucas on March 8, 2021. Attached to this email dated March 5, 2021 was a statement from Wesyna Davis.

*Stephen made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the above matter. Isaya seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

*A motion was made and seconded during executive session to put out a statement that "we stand in solidarity with those who condemn Del. Lisanti's racist comment and we still stand by the statement we voted on and put out in 2019 in which we called for Del. Lisanti's resignation." Barbara objected to the motion being made and voted on in executive session. The motion was restated and put to a vote a second time. The motion carried.*

### **Redistricting Commission**

Carol talked about attending a webinar about redistricting and putting together townhall meetings to get feedback from the community about the redistricting that the redistricting commission is working on. We have some maps they are working on and will have more information for everyone.

### **New Business**

#### **March 9, 14 & 17, 2021 email related to By-Law Language to include non-binary membership on central committees.**

Michael Bayrd explained the new national by-laws changes which require inclusion of non-binary individuals on the ballot. Our committee has until July 1st to vote on the language to allow for non-binary candidates for the Harford County Democratic Central Committee. Barbara and Carol volunteered to come up with the language to have gender balance on the committee as well as non-binary candidates. In order to win a seat, non-binary candidates must be among the top vote getters, and no more than 50% of the committee can be represented by one gender. At the next meeting we will have the wording that we are going to adopt.

## **Operations Manual Update (additional policy regarding Zoom meeting protocol)**

Mike Ciufu offered revisions to the Operations Manual which will be voted on at the next meeting.

## **Schedule Meeting for Training on Voter Registration – Barbara Kreamer**

Barbara recommended another voter registration training not limited to our members. The BOE will provide certificates to those who attend the training. Barbara will contact the BOE regarding the process and whether they can come to the meeting and it is up to us whether we want to take the time to do this during one of our meetings. Rev. Hunter seconds the need to broaden the voting base. Barbara will contact the BOE regarding the process.

## **DNC Best Practices Training for 2022 Candidates – Barbara Kreamer**

Both Barbara and Ben completed training to encourage good campaigns and best practices leading to a successful campaign season. Barbara made a motion for a subcommittee to develop written guidelines to distribute to all Democratic primary candidates to submit to the full committee for a vote. Suzanne seconded the motion. Jowanda wondered if the state has that kind of training, do we need to develop what the state has or develop in conjunction with the state? Michael Bayrd said that the state does put on candidate trainings in conjunction with national training institutes such as one with BPI (Best Practices Institute). There will be multiple trainings offered. In terms of materials Michael recommended the BPI vault with materials and information that they share to any Democratic candidate who requests the resources. There is no need to replicate the wheel and there already are resources that can be shared. Carol suggested that this is in sync with the next item and that Barbara can share what she got from training with Isaya and Suzanne for what they're planning in May. Barbara agreed to postpone this question pending getting together on that.

## **Event proposed for May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Candidate Recruitment/Training Program – Isaya Mutombo**

Isaya talked about the work of the You Can Run Team consisting of Bonita (AADems Vice Chair), Isaya, Suzanne and Zack. First, they explored how to engage youth in politics, such as using social media, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook. The best way to engage them is to talk with them about issues that impact their lives such as the environment, stopping wars, climate change and the pandemic. Linking young people to the Young Democrats of Maryland is another important avenue for youth political engagement. The subcommittee invited the young, up and coming politicians from the local municipal and county councils as a way of encouraging Young Dems to be curious about what is happening in their local community and to consider running for office and volunteering for local campaigns. Zack added that we have 10 speakers lined up and showed the rough draft of the flyer for the You Can Run program. Amina added that she had some connections to programs with young people involving them in politics and

offered to provide more information about this. Cordell also said that since it's his age group, he wants to help with that as well. *Isaya made a motion to move forward with the candidate recruitment program on May 23rd from 3-5pm and Cordell seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.*

### **Good of the Order**

Carol thanked everyone for their patience tonight. Suzanne wished everyone a Happy Earth Day.

### **Adjournment**

*Stephen made a motion to adjourn and Rev. Hunter seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 10:41pm.*