

Birmingham Bloomfield Democratic Club Minutes • February 16, 2021

Call to Order / Roll Call of Officers

Debbie Rosenman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

She introduced officers of the club and greeted new participants. Officers present: Evan Brook (Vice Chair); Gail Whitty (Treasurer); Charles Gaba (Corresponding Secretary); Corinne Shoop (Trustee); Nicole Bedi (Trustee); and Tom Russell (Recording Secretary).

The agenda was shared online via Zoom and Corinne Shoop made a motion to approve with a second from Charles Gaba. The Agenda was approved.

The minutes from the previous meeting had been circulated and posted on our website. Charles made a motion to approve, seconded by Corinne. The minutes were approved.

List of those present is at the end of this report.

Report of the Chair:

Debbie Rosenman provided her report:

“There is no shortage of news at the federal level this day, with the impeachment trial behind us and the expected verdict of acquittal. It was good to hear that Speaker Pelosi announced that the House of Representatives will launch a 9/11 style commission to investigate the January 6 insurrection to get to the bottom of it all. It has also been reported that nearly 140,000 voters have left the Republican Party in 25 states since January 6th .

“Now we all want to move forward to see President Biden’s nominees for cabinet positions approved and to pass a COVID relief package this country desperately needs.

“At the state level, I bet most of you have heard about the recent antics of our State Senate Majority Leader, Republican Mike Shirkey. He was in the headlines months ago for engaging with the armed protestors who entered our State Capitol sitting in the gallery holding firearms as the senators sat on the floor below trying to conduct business. Later, he was caught meeting privately with members of these same groups to talk about how to “improve their image.” Then this last week, it all came to a head when Shirkey went on record calling the Jan. 6th insurrection a “hoax.” When he was criticized by fellow Republicans that he was not being tough enough in his dealings with Governor Whitmer, he commented that he had “spanked her” on her budget and in other ways in his dealing with her in the legislature. We must let him and the other Republican senators blocking the work on COVID relief and holding up federal funds dedicated to School Aid in Michigan know that their antics must stop. Look at the link Evan is dropping in the chat now to read about these recent events and see how we must stand up to them.

“On the local level, we need to further organize, and we will be doing that through the formation of four BBDems committees. They are the Precinct Delegate Recruitment and Engagement, Building Membership, Community Outreach and Speakers Committees. Look for the link that Evan is dropping in the chat to the google form to sign up for one of these committees. We need everyone to do this to get more involved and put our collective work in action.

“I want to thank Nessa Feller, Jeannie Goddard, and Allen Wolf, three of our precinct delegates, who made over 154 phone calls in the last week to recruit folks to come to our meetings and join our club. [Evan then spoke briefly about new tools to reach people.]

“My last comment is to encourage everyone to consider joining our club and paying the \$15 dues. Go to bbdems.org to join. Thanks!”

Treasurer's Report

Gail Whitty reported that there is [redacted] in the club's account. There have been 45 new members since January 1. She asked people to pay their 2021 dues as soon as possible.

Precinct Delegate Committee Report

Allen Wolf spoke briefly about the role of the precinct delegates and that we have 54 slots not yet filled. DPDOC (Democratic Precinct Delegates of Oakland County) is the county organization for precinct delegates. Allen encouraged people to sign up for the newsletter. Joselyn Benson, Michigan Secretary of State, will be the DPDOC speaker on March 2 at 7:00 PM.

Oakland County Democratic Party (OCDP)

Kelly Dillaha reported on the OCDP meeting on February 9. They decided that the past Chair would be a member of the officers' board, which will add organizational continuity. They also added three new committees.

New Business

First Guest Speaker

The first guest speaker was Rudy Hobbs, Deputy County Executive. His first topic was vaccinations. We are in Phase 1A, which includes health care workers. There are about 3,000 more of them to do. Phase 1B is open now, which includes police, fire, teachers, grocery, and restaurant workers. The county is administering 8,000 doses per week but has the capacity for 20,000 per week. We are limited by the supply coming from the federal government to the state. If we receive more doses, the county could ramp up to over 40,000+ does per week by the time we get to Phase 1C, which is the general public. They are hoping to have vaccinated all teachers by the end of February. He asked for patience and encouraged people to go to the county website and click on "Save Your Spot" to sign up for the vaccine (OaklandCountyVaccine.com). You will be alerted when it is your turn. At the moment, 60% of the doses are going to local health departments and 40% to hospitals. CVS, Walgreens, Mijer, and Rite Aid also significant parts of the effort and are getting their doses directly from the federal government.

Looking to the future, we imagine the federal and state governments will provide for many more does per week. By Phase 1C we hope to administer 40 – 50k doses per week through the county.

Rudy Hobbs also mentioned the Oakland 360 Health Care Initiative, which is a one-stop shop for health care. They are building capacity and programs through this initiative.

On the subject of housing, they are working to improve services. Affordable housing assistance is the focus, the average assistance grant being \$3,500 to individuals to help with rent, mortgage, and/or utilities bills.

On the subject of criminal justice, we have a new prosecutor and new initiatives in policing, public safety, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The county has a new Diversity Officer and there is a new Diversity Council of people selected to lead change for equity in the county.

On sustainability, the county is preparing a study to shrink our footprint to be more impactful and sustainable. We will be reaching out to our stakeholders and friends on this.

Dave Coulter, County Executive, is also very interested in transit issues. They will be working on this and plan to bring something to the voters on this important subject. A Q&A session followed.

Second Guest Speaker

Hayley Alderman, Michigan Democratic Party Director of Party Affairs, was our second guest speaker. Hayley presented a power point discussion titled, "From the State Party to the Local Clubs – How Does it All Work?" This

slide presentation will be posted on our website. Main topics included: party organization, responsibilities, and leadership, cyclical and permanent campaigns, convention schedules and process, available training, the VAN (Voter Activation Network), MDP bylaws, and Roberts Rules of Order. Hayley's presentation was followed by a Q&A session.

Good and Welfare

- Debbie asked participants to fill out the Google form to volunteer for particular committees. We will also start a new committee on Recruitment.
- Corinne asked if everyone was comfortable to raise their hand if they want to speak.
- Charles said that we have over 1,200 people on our email list. The Biden Administration has re-opened enrollment for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). If the new bill is signed into law, it will improve the subsidy structure making it more affordable. It will also put a cap on premiums.
- Debbie said that we will put our upcoming events on the website. Please see that tab on our web page.

Next Meeting

We will meet again on Tuesday, March 16 (Third Tuesday) at 7 PM.

Adjourn

Evan Brook made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by George Dilgard. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

List of Those Present (besides Officers & Guest Speakers):

George Dilgard	Jane Oneil
Peter Dolan	Paige Sachs
Cynthia Shaw	John Owens
Nancy Tuttle	Sandy Hansell
Prashanth Balusu	Maura Battersby
Frederick Simms	Mandy Garver
Juliet Hentschel	Frederick Simms
Julia Galliker	Lisa Peers
David Cristensen	Jackie Spicer
Kelly Dillaha	Cherie Happy
Linda Zlothoff	DonTai Crump
Nessa Feller	Larry Lipton

Duly submitted,
Thomas Russell
Recording Secretary

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