

Minutes

October 19, 2021, Birmingham Bloomfield Democratic Club

Call to order by the Chair 7:03pm/Roll Call of Officers

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Debbie Rosenman. Officers present include: Debbie Rosenman (Chair), Evan Brook (Vice Chair), Gail Whitty (Treasurer), Andrew Corey (Recording Secretary), Charles Gaba (Corresponding Secretary), Corinne Shoop (Trustee).

Approval of Agenda—Discussion (Passed)

Report of the Chair:

Chair Debbie Rosenman gave the following report to the club members present:

“So glad to see so many people on our call tonight. This is a very timely issue and one that we all need to be working together to address.

The focus of our efforts in the state right now are on the Michigan Redistricting Commission’s maps. Once the maps are finalized, we will be living with them for the next ten years. Our action in the next two weeks is to point out that their maps are not yet good enough because they don’t adequately reflect partisan fairness. The party that wins the most votes statewide should win the most seats. That is the Democratic Party! The maps in their current state favor the Republicans and now is the time to speak up about that.

People have the opportunity to testify in person at the TCF Center this Wednesday from 1-3:30 and again at 5-8 p.m. We have carloads of people going down. To learn more about this, check out www.michigan.gov/micrc. Comments can also be given by zoom or in writing over the next two weeks.

On another note, I want to warn you about two dangerous petition drives that are out there. One is ironically called “Secure MI Vote” when it does everything it can to take away the power of your vote. The other is called “Unlock MI: 2.0” which takes away the ability of our health departments to make decisions to protect our health. BOTH these petitions will NOT ever get to the people. If the organizers can collect the 340,000 signatures, they will put them before the Republican legislature, who will pass them, and the governor does not have veto power to stop them. The best thing to do is DECLINE to sign and pass the word to others to do the same. Petition gatherers will lie about the nature of petitions to get their signatures and the only way to stop them is to NOT sign.

On a more local level, if you live in Birmingham, please vote in the upcoming city commission election. Our club has heard all the candidates and we like these three the best: Katie Schafer, Elaine McLain and Anthony Long. Please consider supporting them. As we will hear tonight, putting the best people local offices are very important!”

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Gaily Whitty gave a report on the club’s finances.

Chair Debbie Rosenman introduced Emery Pence, the moderator for tonight's Tonw Hall. He went on to present the panelists:

1. Mike Whitty -- Professor at U of D Business School: Right-wing extremism as it relates to current political landscape
2. Lucas Hartwell and Patricia Duffy: Report on embattled school-board member in Grand Blanc, Amy Facchinello, who subscribes to and openly espouses conspiracy theories
3. Martin Brook: Report on local office-holder's viewpoint of right-wing extremism and its dangers to elections and local politics
4. Lori Stone (State Rep. – Warren, District 21) and long-term teacher and MEA member: Right-wing extremism at state capital set stage for Jan. 6. Setting agenda at state level is imperative to getting things done. Republicans are moving their own extreme legislation as things stand currently.

Good and Welfare: Michael Levin – self-introduction and information regarding willingness to help with people on climate issues

Meeting next month is on 4th Tuesday with Haley Stevens 7:00. Nov. 23.

List of Participants Present - Allen Wolf, Mike Whitty, Emery Pence, Barbara Borden, Bill Gage, Cathy Heller, Cherie Happy, Cynthia Shaw, David Hohendorf, Diane Anderson, Donal Donas, Dyann Hayes, Evan George Dilgard, Gina Keller, Howard Baron, Howard Lederman, Jeremy Levinson, Judith Goodman, Kathy Henry, Kelly Dillaha, Linda Samuelson, Linda Zlotoff, Lisa Efros, Lucas Hartwell, Marti Szilagyi, Martin Brook, Michael Levin, Miriam Imerman, Patricia Campbell, Patricia Duffy, Prasanth Balusu, Rhonda Rhodes Grant, Lori Stoen, Stephanie Keywell, Susan Lundal, Warner Mach

Motion to adjourn. Adjourned, 8:28 PM. Discussion followed.

Duly Submitted,

Andrew Corey
Recording Secretary