

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD DEMOCRATIC CLUB VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Call to Order/Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Charles Gaba, Chair, presiding. Also present:

- -Chair, Corinne Shoop
- Treasurer: Gail Whitty
- Recording Secretary: Miriam Imerman
- Corresponding Secretary: Nicole Bedi
- Trustee: Debbie Rosenman

Not present: Lynn Shecter, Trustee

Also present:

Thomas Russell; Kelly Dillaha; Evan Brook; Larry Lipton; DonTal Crump; Juliet Hentschel; Melinda Gray; Rachel Jones; Morgan Mattler; Martin Brook, Blfld. Twp.; Steve Wolock; Bonnie Anderson; Diane Brody; Marcia Gershenson, County Commissioner; Andree Dolan; Renita James; Stephanie Fakh, Bloomfield Township Trustee; Allen Wolf; Dr. Anil Kumar; Jeannie Goddard; ___ Bender; Marcia Marcotte; Patricia Sheren

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the November minutes was made by Corinne, seconded by Kelly, and approved. Charles stated that the minutes were available on the Club website.

Approval of Agenda

Charles presented the Agenda, as follows:

- Change in bylaws re: meetings
- Board elections

Debbie moved to approve the agenda. Gail seconded. The minutes were approved.

Charles introduced himself as the outgoing chair of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Democratic Club.

Treasurer's Report:

Gail reported that the Club currently had a balance of \$2,682 in the Club treasury. \$1,000 had been expended in support of various candidates running in November.

Charles mentioned that, per an agreement with the Oakland County Democratic Party, the Club had raised funds from the sale of campaign signs.

Post-election Round-up, Final Round:

Charles reported that in Georgia Jon Osoff became the state's first Jewish Senator, and Raphael Warnock the first African-American Senator. The Georgia victories gave the Democrats a (razor-thin) margin in the Senate, and Democrats now have the House and Senate, in addition to the Presidency.

Charles reported that he had raised approximately \$5.9 million for candidates across the U.S., with more money still coming in as monthly donations. His fundraising may top \$6 million, including \$150,000 for the Georgia runoffs (mostly the U.S. Senate race). He has already started raising funds for 2022. Virginia has a legislative race in 2021.

Charles reported that in the Capitol riots, we came close to having members of Congress (of both parties) assassinated. The woman who stole Nancy Pelosi's laptop, stating her intention to sell it to Russia, has been arrested. Haley Stevens gave a chilling report on her experiences on Jan. 6 in a Zoom call with Club members. Mitch McConnell (finally) attributed the riot to Trump's actions. The impeachment trial has been moved to the Senate, more of a symbolic act, but also to prevent Trump from running again. In response to a question from DonTal, Charles stated that no official action has been taken yet to stop Trump from receiving the Presidential briefings. Also still unresolved: The lifetime pension normally granted to former Presidents, and maintaining a post-Presidency security detail. It was suggested by Corinne that impeachment may stop a lifetime pension.

Committee reports: None.

Old Business: None

Proposed change in Club Elections:

Charles proposed that election of Club officers be moved to the December meeting, with new officers taking their positions at the January meeting. He moved to amend the Bylaws accordingly. Debbie noted that the Club's holiday party usually takes place in December, and asked if the elections should take place at the same meeting. Tom Russell suggested that Club elections take place in November, and the holiday party still take place in December. On motion made, seconded, and carried, the Club's elections will be in November, and the holiday party remain in December.

Board Elections:

Kelly Dillaha was nominated, seconded and carried as Temporary Chair, in which capacity she led the election of officers.

Slate:

Trustees:

- Corinne Shoop - outgoing Vice-Chair;
- Nicole Bedi - On Club Board since 2016, active in local Democratic politics

Corresponding Secretary: Charles Gaba, outgoing Chair

Recording Secretary: Thomas Russell - Retired from work with Federal courts, moved to area from Washington, DC in 2018

Treasurer: Gail Whitty

Vice-Chair: Evan Brook - was field organizer for One Campaign

Chair: Debbie Rosenman: Involved in campaigns of numerous candidates, recruited many precinct delegates

Miriam moved to approve the slate. Martin seconded. The slate was approved.

New Chair's Goals:

Debbie outlined 4 goals for the Club:

1. Membership: Increase membership by bringing in precinct delegates, activists & young members; she wants to reach out to high school Government teachers/etc.
2. Community Outreach: The Club should reach out to help the Birmingham/Bloomfield community and neighboring communities, with such efforts as food drives, and clothing drives, among other things
3. Precinct Delegate Committee - led by Jeannie Goddard. This effort has already borne fruit, increasing the number of precinct delegates from 32 to 135 in a single cycle. Debbie praised Allen Wolf's efforts to recruit p.d.'s.
4. Speakers Committee - Recruit speakers from groups such as conservation groups, LGBT groups, etc.

The addition of a Marketing Committee was also suggested.

Also suggested, by Tom: the Club should circulate information about vaccine availability. The topic of vaccines was recommended as a topic for the February meeting. Marcia Gershenson gave an update on vaccines at the County level. Those wishing vaccines can sign up with the county at oakgov.com. There is a form to fill out. Oakland County doesn't know how many doses the county will receive until Friday. Last Saturday, 25,000 doses had been given out. Case numbers in Michigan are going down, thanks to Governor Whitmer's actions. Unfortunately, the impact on small businesses has been severe. The county has grants available for small business relief. Allen Wolf suggested that the Club could provide volunteers to help educate communities, including communities of color, about the safety of vaccinations.

Charles noted that the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on the Affordable Care Act will probably be handed down sometime between April and June. President Biden will be adding provisions to strengthen the Act.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.