

## WARD 5 DEMOCRATS MONTHLY MEETING

January 27, 2020

1. Call to Order at 6:37 pm
2. Establish Quorum. 6 members of the executive team and more than 10 democrats are present.
3. Approve Agenda Motion to approve by Rip Preston. Second by Anthony Roberson. Agenda Approved
4. Minutes: Review minutes from November 2019 meeting from Secretary Lucio. Motion to approve by Anthony Roberson. Second by Pearl Preston. Minutes approved.
5. Officers' Reports:
  - a. Chair- Gordon-Andrew Fletcher. Recognized elected members. Highlighted items from his report which was distributed. Introduced new leaders in the Ward 5 Dems.
  - b. 1st Vice Chair – Khadiyah Williams. Reported that she is excited to be here and will be working on to elevate the discussion around education and expanding membership.
  - c. 2nd Vice Chair – Jatarious Frazier. Reported a recap of the holiday party. A written report was handed out.
  - d. Treasurer's Report – Juan Torres Reported that he has taken care of the necessary steps and paperwork to be the treasurer. Current balance \$8,411.44. He will provide a full report at the next meeting.
  - e. Correspondence Secretary Report – Hazel Thomas No Report.
6. Committee Reports/Approval of Committee Budgets
  - a. Voter Registration & Education Committee – Jennifer Blemur Report provided.
  - b. Ways/Means & Fundraising Committee-Vacant
  - c. Communications Committee-Loren Coleman
  - d. Awards Committee – Adrian Jordan/Anthony Hood Report was provided. Creating a Ward 5 awards gala/fundraiser. Looking at Ivy City Smokehouse in May 2020.

- e. Statehood Committee – Caroline Petti ( provided by Noah Wills). Discussed their meeting last week and the movement to create statehood committees in all wards. The focus of the meeting was agendas moving forward. Next meeting February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Caroline’s house in Brookland. Looking for volunteers to help and also a nominations committee to create selection criteria for awards. This will be a ticketed events. Also looking for sponsorship.
- f. Seniors Committee- Bob King/Hattie Pierce
- g. Membership Committee-Ruth Pagani

## 7. Old Business

- a. Voting Machines in the Senior Buildings of Ft. Lincoln (Bob King & Gordon Fletcher)

Approved to draft a letter of support for voting machines at senior buildings. Will be bringing it in front of the DC Democratic Committee. The Councilmembers office is also working on this issue. Tim Thomas mentioned that many of these homes in Ft. Lincoln are new for this election and need to be considered.
- b. Ward Five Committeeman & Committeewoman Special Election (Tim Thomas, Bill Lewis, & Charlotte Lewis) Information was sent out via Mailchimp. Need 5 signatures from each of the 18 precincts or you can pay \$250 to get on the ballot. Petitions will be available on Wednesday. Election will be available on Wednesday. Election will be at the end of February. There was a discussion about getting the word out. Our communications chair is working on getting the information out to various listserves and the website. Also add the Nextdoor app. Contact Tim Thomas if more information is needed.
- c. Birth to Three Resolution (Khadijah Williams & Gordon Fletcher)

Recap that Zachary Parker came to our last meeting and asked Ward 5 Dems to support this. There is a proposal to support this letter. Quality early childhood programming is critical to fundamental development in young children. This would try to close some of the milestone gaps by providing quality programming. The bill did pass in 2018 by the City Council. The Mayor proposed funding it. Majority supports it as a

literacy for life to reduce economic and achievement gaps. We agreed to support this.

## 8. New Business

- a. DC State Convention. We have not had a state convention in DC in a long time. The state committee voted to have a state convention on Saturday, April 18, 2020 at the Convention Center. Slogan “ On the Road to Milwaukee”. Ward 5 Chair Ruth Pagani. This is shortly after Super Tuesday. Looking to get the candidates or their top surrogate to attend. The voting will continue until late in the evening to allow those who celebrate the Sabbath an opportunity to vote. Constituent Caucuses will be there as well. This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote/Suffrage. This will be a theme at the Convention. Donna Brazil has agreed to be the Keynote speaker. There is a strong effort to include high school students. The planning committee recommends that each ward’s delegation will include 10% of people age 16-21. Ward 5 has one of the largest delegations. There will be 640 delegates total. Need to know by April 21<sup>st</sup> who our 80 delegates and 5 alternates are. Looking to establish high school democratic clubs. Each delegate is encouraged to contribute \$20.00. Also looking for donations to subsidize the students. Also looking for people to reach out to college democrats chapters. Next meeting February 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at National Democratic Club.

A clarification: high school students age 13-15 will be allowed to participate and get community service credits but not eligible to vote.

- b. Platform Committee for the DC State Convention- A power point was shared outlining the platform. Creating a platform outline within the next 90 days. They are sending out a survey to everyone they can.

Key elements:

- Domestic Policy
  - Affordable Housing
  - Climate change and sustainability

- Access to health care ( Questions raised about including quality of healthcare)
- Gun Control
- Immigration
- Technology and cyber security
- Government
  - Statehood
  - Campaign finance reform
  - Equity in educational funding
- Economy
  - Labor and economic supports
  - Economic equity
- Social Issues
  - Women's issues
  - Criminal Justice
  - LGBTQ Issues
  - Racial Equity and Inclusion
  - Seniors, families

The way the informational survey is being distributed was discussed. They want to get it out to as many people as possible. Each survey will have a unique identifier which keeps an individual's personal information private.

c. Educational Townhall- March 28<sup>th</sup> at Dunbar High School

The purpose is to elevate the discussion from public vs. charter to ensuring educational success. Looking to harness the voices and experiences of Ward 5 residents in order to inform and partner with education decision makers. Want to influence educational policy. Looking to create a purposeful event by including as many people as possible. She is looking for help with outreach, programming and logistics and planning.

9. Announcements

- a. Justin Roberts from CM McDuffie's office- talked about Budget survey.

- b. DC Council at Large candidate- Marcus Goodwin. This Thursday at 6:30 pm at Ivy City Smoke House is the campaign kick off
- c. Dave Donaldson- At Large Committeeman for DC State Committee. Running as a delegate to the Democratic National Committee.
- d. Rip Preston- American Legion. March 7<sup>th</sup> Oratorical contest on the Constitution. They will create bills and go through the process to pass laws.
- e. Ms. Mobley encouraged everyone to call the Senate switchboard about the impeachment witnesses. Robert White meet and greet tomorrow night at San Antonio Grill.
- f. This Friday Committee on Health hearing at the DC Council building.
- g. DC Democratic Party Breakfast Club Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at Busboys & Poets (Brookland at 9:00 am.
- h. Ward 5 Democrats will be conducting voter registration at the Nprth Michigan Park February Meeting at the information expo.
- i. Tuesday, Feb, 25<sup>th</sup> the Ward 5 Democrats and the DC Democratic Party will be co-hosting the next Democratic Presidential Debate Watch Party at Busboys & Poets. More information to follow soon.

10.Adjournment 8:26 PM