

Ward 5 Democrats General Body Meeting  
February 22, 2021

Chairman Fletcher  
First Vice-Chair Emily Lucio  
Second Vice-Chair Frazier  
Anthony Roberson  
Committeewoman Carmichael  
Caroline Petti  
Jennifer Blemur  
John Lucio  
Juan Torres  
Bob King  
Rip Preston  
Ruth Pagani  
Sasha Francis  
Hazel Thomas  
Committeeman Thomas

General Membership: 33

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

Quorum established

Motion to approve agenda

- Made by Emily, seconded by former Chair Jeannette Mobley

Chair Updates

- Supporting vaccinations in Ward 5, shoutout to Senior Chair & MVP Bob King for getting both doses
- Celebrating Black Family, Black History Month (365 days a year)
- Welcome to current civic association leaders, current and past ANC commissioners on the call
  - Committeewoman Carmichael gave an update regarding DCFDW's efforts on securing Plum Book appointments for DC women of color & interested residents (contact herself or Hazel if interested)
- Budget engagement through CM McDuffie's Office
- Nominating committee consisting of Ruth Pagani, Rip Preston, Sean Sullivan (Robert Brannum volunteered as well), need 5 individuals total)
- Parliamentary appointment=did not work out with Grace Lewis, still in need for this position for remainder of term
- CM Pinto planning to bring greetings to W5D in May General Body Meeting
- Amendment to bylaws at end of each term; Constitutional Convention Committee being formed (those who expressed interest so far have been Sasha, Tony Roberson, Jennifer Blemur, Kia Jackson, Bob King, Linda Irizzay)
  - Hazel made the point of the need for an odd-numbered committee

#### Treasurer Report

- GoDaddy renewal for website was a fee of \$127.07
  - Balance as of 2/22/21 was \$3,200.25

#### Statehood Committee

- Caroline gave an update around yard sign distribution; Sean Sullivan acted as point of contact
- W5D pairing with DCVote, Neighbors United for Statehood, 51 for 51 for massive grassroots effort to showcase local support for Statehood in the Ward/city

#### Senior Committee/RCV Assessment

- Bob King composed letter to the Council stressing the need to examine the impact that any proposed ranked-choice voting measure would have on the city's seniors, who comprise a significant chunk of the voting block. Needs to be an impact assessment geared towards seniors
- Presenting a letter to the Executive Committee by early March

#### The Crummel School Presentation

- Rev. Gayle from St. Luke's Episcopal spoke about their founding pastor, Alexander Crummel
- Parisa Norouzi presented a slide show put together by Empower DC discussing the fight to save the Crummel School building in Ivy City, which has sat vacant & decaying since the 1970s
- For 20 years now this has been a fight reflective of the gentrification within Ivy City; the need to preserve the building for the community's use is vital & paramount to saving the history & legacy of Rev. Crummel

#### Black History Month Presentation

- Emily introduced Phil Portlock (Ward 5 resident & historian) to share the opening minutes of his documentary on protecting voting rights since the Civil Rights Movement
- Especially within Black History Month, the fight against disenfranchisement is as vital today as it was during Jim Crow & segregation

Meeting ending at 8:04pm