

Ward 5 Democrats January 2021 General Body Meeting

1/25/21

Chairman Fletcher

First Vice Chair Emily Lucio

Second Vice Chair Frazier

Committeewoman Carmichael

Committeeman Thomas

Hazel Thomas

Juan Torres

Ruth Pagani

John Lucio

Jennifer Blemur

Bob King

Quorum established at 7:02pm

Motion to approve agenda

- Caroline took up motion, Emily seconded, no abstentions

Jan Exec Committee minutes in the Drive

Chairman's Address

- Excitement around President Biden and VP Harris
- DC Statehood prime opportunity, applauding grassroots GOTV efforts
- Recognizing tone of this year is different than previously with elections approaching
 - Formation of Nominating Committee ahead of election
- Discussion of RCV within Ward 5, following lead of DSC

First Vice Chair

- Working on modification of Exec Committee meeting agenda to minimize overlap with General Body

Treasurer

- Expensed \$202.00 for Holiday Party Mega Booth and bank fee
- Balance \$3629.32 as of 1/23/21, next report due 1/31

Andria Thomas and Jim Bubar

- Statehood Presentation on accelerating progress
- Key Senate targets (ME, AZ)
- Jim Bubar fought for inclusion of statehood language in party platform
- Massive grassroots efforts, DC Dems trying to distribute across all Wards
- Next Statehood Committee meeting February 10th

Fundraising

- Sasha drafted a report outlining fundraising goals until end of term (May-June)
- Letter went out to local sponsors to establish long term exclusive relationships with Ward 5 businesses
 - Walk For A Cause, raise \$300 to donate to this Ward 5 nonprofit
 - Would need to create teams, set up a walk route throughout Ward 5
 - Golf Tournament in May, goal to raise \$2000
 - \$500 deposit required, set up website and marketing for this event
- Ward 5 Beer, Cheese, and Wine Tasting tour, late May/early June
- E Commerce swag (tshirts, hoodies, water bottles)
- Approve overall plan:
 - Bob moved to adopt, seconded by Sean, no nays, no abstentions
- Getting letters out to businesses asap

Issues and Programs

- Overall election recap panel went well, link posted in newsletter

Early election nominating committee, April this will be finalized

- Rip and Sean so far, trying to make this diverse

Committeewoman Carmichael

- DSC presentation on upcoming events
- Need to focus on 2022 midterms, upcoming Environmental Committee meeting
- Contact Committeewoman Carmichael or John Zottoli for more information

Jonathan McNair (CM McDuffie's office update)

- Discussing REACH Act within the Council, Mayor establishing Office of Racial Equity
- Vaccination rollout, some issues with non-Ward 5 residents getting vaccinated within the Ward, ensuring hardest hit areas get prioritized
- Online budget survey for Mayor's budget
- CM McDuffie participated in a Smart Growth Summit panel discussion around local businesses

Statehood Committee

- Exciting times ahead for Statehood with a Democratic majority Congress and a Biden Administration
- Has emerged as a core Democratic Party principle
- Ongoing Grassroots efforts across the city, yard signs and window signs

RCV

- Idea of having a discussion on RCV in February was discussed
- Sam and Brianna from Rank the Vote presented arguments
- Bob, Hazel, and Sasha expressed concerns about the lack of information

- Imperative to take seniors and COVID into consideration
- Emily introduced a motion to table current discussion due to the lateness of the hour and to have a special educational meeting to hear both sides (panel in February)
 - Panel discussion was never voted on by General Body due to continuance of discussion, so Exec Committee vote on panel is a moot point (per Grace Lewis)
- Committeewoman Carmichael suggested first step should be for allowance of more information to come out before rushing to a vote, Committeeman Thomas concurred
- Is a panel discussion a good idea in February, no voting is taking place, just an educational discussion
- Overall consensus was there should be no rush into this for February
- Sasha moved to table RCV discussion indefinitely, Sean seconded. Motion approved to table indefinitely

Adjourned at 9:21p