



Ward 5 Democrats

www.ward5dems.org ★ ★ ★

Monday, June 22, 2020

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order 6:35 PM
- II. Establish Quorum 6:36 PM
- III. Approve Agenda. A motion was made to adopt the agenda by Caroline Petti. Jeanette Mobley second. The agenda was approved unanimously.
- IV. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes form April 28, 2020. Minutes will be posted on the website.
- V. Officers' Reports:
 - a. Chair- Gordon-Andrew Fletcher. Increased membership and increased our presence in Ward 5. Did all of this as a team. Worked with other DC Democratic clubs. We got over 1000 new members while handing out cards on election day at the two Ward 5 polling sites. We acknowledged the tragic killings recently. We hope to create a space to hear from residents on the Black Lives Matter issue.
 - b. 1st Vice Chair – Khadijah Williams No report.
 - c. 2nd Vice Chair – Jatarious Frazier No report.
 - d. Treasurer's Report – Juan Torres Balance \$4402.32. Did an invoice for Mailchimp for \$31.79. That is the only outstanding reimbursement at this time. For anyone who wants a mask, checks may be sent directly to Juan. The facemasks are \$10.00 each.
 - e. Correspondence Secretary Report – Hazel Thomas No Report.
- VI. Committee Reports/Approval of Committee Budgets
 - a. Voter Registration & Education Committee – Jennifer Blemur. A written report was provided. On June 17, 2020 the DC Board of Elections held a virtual Public Town Hall meeting to elicit public feedback about the June 2nd primary and to discuss their report. Two major takeaways from DCBOE were (1) they plan to move forward with automatically mailing ballots to all registered DC residents and for in-person voting they are taking suggestions from organizations about locations. The DC Democratic State Committee has convened a working group that will be providing recommendations to the

Chair

Gordon-Andrew
Fletcher, Esq.

1st Vice Chair

Khadijah Williams

2nd Vice Chair

Jatarious Frazier

Recording

Secretary

Emily Lucio

Correspondence

Secretary

Hazel Thomas

Treasurer

Juan Torres

Financial

Secretary

Anthony Roberson

Asst. Recording

Secretary

Bill Lewis

Parliamentarian

Vacant

DCBOE on voting procedures moving forward. There will be a greater emphasis galvanizing people around a week of voting rather than the single Election Day. I will continue working with Loren to develop infographics and messaging to the membership. I've also talked with Ward 5 Representative to SBOE Zachary Parker about doing voter registration in the six high schools located in the ward. There is still uncertainty of what that will look like but we are planning on having another conversation this month to discuss. September 25th in National Voter Registration Day and the Ward 5 Dems will be looking for assistance. Hazel Thomas commended the Ward 5 Democrats for holding the DCBOE's feet to the fire.

- b. Ways/Means & Fundraising Committee-John Lucio COVID-19 makes things a bit difficult, we are developing a plan to develop the things we want to achieve and how we do that. Immediately, we plan to use this as an opportunity with the masks. We are selling masks to whoever wants one. An email can be sent to ward5democratsfundraising@gmail.com. The Chairman indicated that we plan to have a clear budget for next year and vigilant in terms of how we spend it.
- c. Communications Committee-Loren Coleman No Report.
- d. Awards Committee – Adrian Jordan/Anthony Hood No Report.
- e. Statehood Committee – Caroline Petti This Friday there will be a vote on the Statehood Bill- Washington DC Admission Act in the House, sponsored by Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton. The last time was in 1993 and did not pass. We are hopeful that it will pass in the house. We have 225 co-sponsors of this bill. It only takes 218 votes to pass a bill. We are feeling pretty confident. Last fall there was a hearing, we knew that there would be a vote sometimes this year. Recent events got this moved forward- 1) The COVID-19 Relief funding where DC was shortchanged. 2) A series of incidents related to the George Floyd protests. The President called in the National Guard against the desire of Mayor Bowser and he used pepper spray to walk across the street from the White House. They sparked condemnation and a teachable moment about how DC is treated in these situations compared to states. These things raised attention to creating Washington Douglas Commonwealth as the 51st state. The mall and the Federal building surrounding it would be separate. The neighborhoods would be a state. This is a critical step in the legislative process. It will still have to pass the US Senate and be signed by The President. Sen. McConnell and The President have made it clear that they will not support this. In the hope that the Senate and the White House turns in November, we hope to keep up this momentum so that we can still move this forward in 2021. Anyone who is interested in getting involved can contact Caroline Petti. www.showup4dc.com Hazel Thomas brought up the act that would make the Mayor the Commander and Chief of the National Guard which has also been sponsored by two Congressman.

Chairman Fletcher asked that we create a flyer by Wednesday to send something out on this upcoming vote.

- f. Seniors Committee- Bob King/Hattie Pierce No Report.
- g. Membership Committee-Ruth Pagani No Report.

VII. Old Business

- a. Ward 5 Democrats Strategic Platform – Ruth Pagani Chairman Fletcher talked about the questions that were distributed to help create the platform.
- b. Funding Request for Deaf Reach – Emily Lucio the Ward 5 Democrats voted to purchase supplies for Deaf Reach. Those supplies were purchased and given to them. We were happy to give back to a group within Ward 5.
- c. Ward 5 Democrats June 2020 GOTV Plan – Bernita Carmichael/John Lucio We had an active May-June GOTV effort getting into the primary. We had a candidate endorsement forum. We got to hear their platforms and their thoughts on Ward 5 issues. The Shadow Senator proudly displayed our endorsement on his website. We are working to re-establish these efforts. We also had a Ward 5 GOTV motorcade. We got some high praise from Ward 5 residents on this. Thanks to the DC Democratic Women, we had a very successful phone bank. We got a good sense of who had voted, educated those who had not about where to vote and got some feedback on issues. Then we had a very successful membership drive at the two Ward 5 polling places. We got a significant number of responses in order to increase our membership. We plan to continue to engage them during the summer and enlist their help within our organization. Overall, this was very successful and we plan to continue to move these efforts forward. The Chairman reminded us that we continued to build upon a long history.
- d. Census Update – Jatarious Frazier The newsletter gave details on this. The National response rate is 60% and DC is 57.1%. We need to continue to do more to get responses.

VIII. New Business

- a. DCBOE Hearing – Gordon Fletcher this past Friday, the Chairman along with the other Chairs and Chairman Wilson, provided testimony at Councilmember Charles Allen's committee. We expressed the issues related to seniors and gave suggestions on how we solve these issues and reducing the size of the voter guide. We feel that DCBOE has a chance with mail in ballots, this should help increase voter turnout. DCBOE will also agree to open 40 precincts for those who want to vote in person. The chair of the Senior's

committee was quoted in a CNN article last week to discuss the senior's voting issue. Ward 5 has been on top of this issue longer than any other group in the city. We will continue to follow up with this and get these issues resolved. Hazel Thomas mentioned that Bob King and Chairman Fletcher have been on the cutting edge of this issue and had the DCBOE followed through with the original Ward 5 recommendations we would have been much better off. She thanked them for their leadership.

- b. Police Reform Forum – Ruth Pagani/John Lucio The plan is to have a discussion panel that provides information to the residents of Ward 5. We are planning to invite many high level officials to encompass the discussion that is going on nationwide. We plan to educate and inform to make informed decisions going into the November. This is an exploratory committee and plan to present our ideas to everyone later in the summer. elections and to also inform the Ward 5 Democrats agenda for the fall. The Criminal Justice Committee will be working on this as well.
- c. Independent Council Race Forum – Ruth Pagani/John Lucio This will be similar to our previous forum. This committee will provide recommendations later. We think this is an opportunity to inform voters about these other candidates. This will not be an endorsement forum. We will not be endorsing an Independent. But we will use this as a way to educate voters about the independent candidates who are on the ballot. Jeannette Mobley thinks it is a good idea to have an independent forum. This is a primary opportunity to hear what is on their agenda and perhaps influence their platform. We should hear what they have to say. Hazel Thomas indicated that it is a good point that there are many people who feel they need to be Democrats and therefore are Independents and thereby gives us an opportunity for us to introduce ourselves to them and for us to learn about what matters to them. Jeannette Mobley followed up with we need to change with the city.
- d. Ward 5 Democrats Strategic Planning Meeting / Retreat – Emily Lucio We are working on two meetings this summer. The first will be a strategic planning meeting to develop our Mission, Vision and Values statements to use to guide our August retreat and our plan for 2020-2021. We are in the process of selecting a date and a location.

IX. Announcements

- The Chairman talked about the current status of COVID-19 and our planning for fall in person meetings. We are looking for locations and are open to suggestions.
- Jeannette Mobely- mentioned some events related to the Biden campaign.
- Enid Doggett mentioned the Men's Health forum on Thursday June 25th at 12pm. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mens-health-where-your-head-at-building-community-resilience-amid-covid-tickets-108973067378>

- Hazel Thomas mentioned a few other events that she will share with Chairman Fletcher to send out.
- Several new people on the call were identified. One of which was from the election day efforts.

X. Adjournment 7:52 pm