

## **Minutes**

**May 16, 2023, Birmingham Bloomfield Democratic Club**

### **Call to order by the Chair 7:03pm/Roll Call of Officers**

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Debbie Rosenman. Officers present include: Debbie Rosenman (Chair), Emery Pence (Vice Chair), Cynthia Shaw (Corresponding Secretary), Libby Dzurka (Treasurer), and Corinne Shoop (Trustee) Not present: Andrew Corey (Recording Secretary) and Juergen Wiesenberger (Trustee)

**Approval of Agenda: Discussion (Passed)**

**Approval of Minutes: Discussion (Passed)**

### **Report of the Chair:**

Welcome everyone to our May meeting. We are glad to see people engaged with our club, but we want to broaden our circle even more. Look for us to walk, with our club banner, in two upcoming local parades this month. On Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> we will be in Birmingham and on Memorial Day, we will be in Beverly Hills. There is a signup sheet on the check-in table and a Google form link in our recent emails. Join us! Bring others along too!

We want to let everyone know now that we will not be having a regularly scheduled club meeting in July. Instead, we plan to meet at a local venue in Birmingham, like Dick O'Dow's or Griffinclaw Brewery for a time to socialize on the summer evening of Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. This will give us a chance to enjoy each other's company. How do folks like that idea?

I hope you take a few minutes to read our emails, which come every two weeks. We would also like to include other related events in the area. Feel free to share them with others and have them sign up on our website to get on our mailing list. If each of us brings one more person to the club, we can expand our reach even more.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Libby Dzurka gave the Treasurer's Report to those present and reminded members to pay their dues.

**Committee Reports:** Reports for the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting

### **STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM REPORT:**

- 1) We are developing our relationship with other Metro Detroit Democratic High School Students. We have talked with the two student leaders of this group, and we are all intrigued by the possibilities of working together. Already, we have publicized to our interns the opportunity to work with them planning a Juneteenth Celebration for Oakland County Dems and to help plan voter registration drives for young people.
- 2) We are contacting all our high school interns to see if they want to stay on our rolls so we can fine tune our contact info database. Already, we have had three 2022 graduates go off to college

and leave us. And, this brings us to our needing your help in identifying new prospects for our program.

- 3) We had to cancel our intern spring social/planning meeting but will reschedule it for June.
- 4) We are very proud to have our Legislative Forum tonight planned and moderated by interns, Tarik, Gabe and Jaxson. Liv also helped with developing the questions and format but she can't be here tonight.

Emery Pence gave the Political Influencers (formerly the Postcard committee) Report:

Thanks to many of you our postcard and letter-writing efforts have been very successful and now since there aren't many election campaigns to work on, we want to expand the model to influence Michigan state legislators. It's a busy and critical time in Lansing and lawmakers pay attention to the mail and texts they receive.

The Dems have control but need our thanks and encouragement to keep them fighting. Some Republicans are actually supporting some of the Democratic initiatives or at least, they might if people like us contact them. That is how our Political Influencer Newsletters came to be.

Debbie and I will be in contact with our legislators and will every few weeks comprise a list of upcoming pending legislation, the legislators who are to be targeted and a simple text that you can modify if you wish. We will also supply contact info. Special thanks to Debbie who does the laborious research necessary to supply our writers with the necessary ammo.

You pick what you want to do: email, call or write the suggested lawmakers.

Please let us know if you want to join us!

When the election season starts again, we will switch back to postcards and letter-writing urging people to vote.

PD Committee Report:

We are participating in a project organized by Distill Social to build a 29-foot puzzle of the world. Precinct Delegates are assembling a 1000-piece section during 4 scheduled sessions where we work on the puzzle and discuss politics.

The 60 sections of the puzzle will all come together at a celebration in Lansing on June 4 to which all participants will be invited.

We are continuing our survey of current PDs to determine their plans for 2024.

PDs in Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham will be asked to canvas for City elections later this year.

### **Old Business:**

Membership voted unanimously to change the Bylaws to reflect our new club's name: Birmingham-Bloomfield Area Democratic Club

### **New Business:**

-Student-led Legislative Town Hall with State Representatives Samantha Steckloff, Natalie Price, Sharon MacDonell and Noah Arbit. Student leaders included: Gabe Efros, Jaxson Kaplan-Rudolph and Tarik Taskin.

-Bloomfield Township Clerk Martin Brook gave an update on changes to elections in response to the passage of Proposal 2

**Good and Welfare:** Chair Debbie Rosenman opened up discussion for Good and Welfare

-State Rep. Natalie Price reminded Members present of an Educational Town Hall at Renaissance High School on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

-A Representative for Rashida Tlaib reminded Members there are Coffee Hours with the Congresswoman including on 5/3 at 6pm in Franklin Village

-State Rep. Sam Steckloff reminded Members of the Michigan Youth Council opportunity

-Memorial Day Parade volunteers are sought to march in the Memorial Day Parade and a Parade on May 21 in Birmingham

Meeting next month is on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Bloomfield Township Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. with socializing starting at 6:30. Commissioner Charlei Cavell is our speaker.

**List of Attendees Present:**

Alvin Allen

Lonny and Marilyn Antrim

Rep. Noah Arbit

Prashanth Balusu

Howard Baron

Martin Brook

Chris Chanko

Maureen Christensen

Michael Corbin

Martha Coyne

George Dilgard

John and Mary Dorsey

Gabe Efros

Lisa Efros

Luvetia Ervin

Ben Esquivel

Charles Gaba

Marcia Gershenson

Dani Gillman  
Dave Goodman  
Judy Goodman  
Rich Grinstein  
Sandy Hansell  
Carol Hayford  
Juliet Hentschel  
Pat Hultman  
Jaxson Kaplan-Rudolph  
Hass Khalife  
Liz Klos  
Sam Lemansky  
Larry Lipton  
Rep. Sharon MacDonell  
Shadia Martini  
Michelle Moody  
Terri O'Brien  
Jane O'Neil  
John Owens  
Lisa Peers  
Martha Phillips  
Ralph Plumley  
Rep. Natalie Price  
Nancy Quarles  
Nina Robb  
Kathy Ross  
Richard Seeger  
Pat Sheren  
Gene (and wife) Simms  
Michelle Spreitzer  
Rep. Samantha Steckloff  
Marti Szilagyi  
Carolina Taro-Roman  
Tarik Taskin  
Judith Toth  
Deborah Wahl  
Adrienne Wann  
Gail and Mike Whitty

Carole and Lee Woolsey

Brandon Yarsike

Frank Zaski

Keri Zhao

Linda Zlotoff

66 + 7 Board members =73 attendees

Motion to adjourn. Adjourned, 8:36p.m.

Duly Submitted,

Andrew Corey

Recording Secretary