

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD AREA DEMS

JANUARY 16, 2024

MINUTES

Chair, Debbie Rosenman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Roll Call:

Present: Chair: Debbie Rosenman, Vice Chair: Emery Pence, Treasurer: Libby Dzurka, Recording Secretary: Corinne Shoop, Corresponding Secretary: Dave Goodman, Trustee: Nessa Fuller. Absent: Trustee: Juergen Wiesenberger

The agenda was accepted as posted without objection.

The minutes from the November meeting were approved and accepted as posted.

Chair Report: Debbie Rosenman

This year is going to be very busy for all of us. We will be working on the races for Oakland Offices, keeping the Democratic majority in the State House, electing a new Democratic US Senator and re-electing President Joe Biden.

Attendance at the monthly meetings is encouraged to keep up to date with the progress of the various races. There is also a bi-monthly newsletter that is full of information. Also, the web site is updated regularly.

Keeping with the OCDP theme "Let's Score in 2024"!!

Treasurer's Report: Libby Dzurka

There are two accounts; the general account and the PAC account. The general account is used to pay for expenses to operate the club. We encourage donations to both accounts, especially in an election year. Libby reported the totals for both accounts.

Committee Reports:

Precinct Delegate Committee:

Allen Wolf is the chair and was unavailable, but Chair Debbie Rosenman read his report he submitted by email. This election cycle there will be regional liaisons to assist with the organization and communication with the precinct delegates:

Birmingham: Maureen Christensen: 248-763-8275 msmithchristensen@gmail.com

Bloomfield: Juergen Wiesenberger: 248-760-4988 wiesenberger@bellsouth.net

Southfield Township: Richard Grinstein: 248-752-7553 grinstein52@gmail.com

The Club has 181 available precinct delegate positions and 81 that are filled at this point. If anyone knows anyone that may be interested in being a precinct delegate, please have them contact Debbie Rosenman or Allen Wolf.

There will be a PD kickoff event on September 21, 2024, at Beverly Hills Park. We will also be asking our precinct delegates to be trained on WaveMichigan and we will be contacting our voters via text.

Postcard Writing Committee/Student Intern Committee:

Emery Pence reported that he is wrapping up the postcard campaign for Shadia Martini. There will be other postcard opportunities later in the campaign season.

He also reported that he is working with the student interns and advised that there will be a kickoff event for the students at Debbie Rosenman's house this Sunday. He asked if anyone knows a student that would be interested in participating to contact him.

There are 40 volunteer opportunities the work the elections in Bloomfield Township. Please see him if you are interested.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Guest speaker: Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter.

Dave Coulter is up for re-election. The law was changed, and his term is now 4 years, rather than two. He does have an opponent, L. Brooks Patterson's daughter Mary Margaret Warner, who is presently using her maiden name.

There are 6 elected Oakland County Officers:

Oakland County Executive: He has held this office since 2019, after L. Brooks Patterson's death.

Oakland County Clerk: Lisa Brown

Oakland County Prosecutor: Karen McDonald

Oakland County Treasurer: Robert Whittenberg

Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner: Jim Nash

Oakland County Sheriff: Michael Bouchard (GOP)

All the offices are up for re-election.

Since Oakland County has been operated by Democrats there have significant differences in the operation of the county and the programs that the county has initiated and offered to its residents.

Under his leadership, the county now has a DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) officer. This ensures that the county provides equal opportunities to all its residents and its policies have their intended impact on all of the communities in the county. He has also created an Environmental Sustainability Officer to guide Oakland County in its efforts to become more environmentally sound.

Oakland County has 61 cities, villages and townships; all have different needs and require different delivery of services.

One of his objectives is to increase the population of Oakland County. To accomplish this, the county has started various programs and projects. He wants to increase the education levels of the residents to attract businesses. His goal is to have 80% of Oakland County have education and/or training behind high school by 2030. Since focusing on this goal and meeting with leaders in education in the county, the county is currently at 69%.

Another project to improve the quality of life and attract business is transportation. His office is working on a regional basis with Macomb, Wayne counties and the City of Detroit to establish reliable mass transportation.

He has also made a concerted effort to change the perception of the county in Lansing. Although there are pockets of wealthy communities, there are communities in Oakland County that need our support. He asked for and received

\$50 million to put towards the re-vitalization of the City of Pontiac. The Phoenix Center will be renovated to attract foot traffic and re-route traffic in Pontiac to assist in the growth of local businesses. He is working with the mayor and city council to create renovation programs that fit the needs of the community.

The County has created a \$12 million trust fund to offer financing to developers to build affordable housing. In Oakland County 40% of its residents are housing insecure, meaning that more than 30% of the household income goes to housing.

The County learned a great deal through the COVID shut down. The County relied upon available science and as a result had a robust response that saved lives.

The County also learned from the social justice movement that evolved from the George Floyd tragedy. Oakland County now has a public defenders office to provide legal services for those charged with a crime in the county. His office is working with Karen McDonald to develop programs to exonerate and release anyone wrongfully convicted.

His office has established a partnership with a non-profit organization, wherein the county puts forward \$2 million and 80,000 Oakland County residents will have their medical debt erased.

Lastly, he is committed to work to address the homeless in Oakland County and the mental health crisis.

None of the programs discussed were available or considered in the last GOP administration and he asked for the Clubs help to keep the Democratic Officers of Oakland County in office so that these programs can continue and keep the momentum of the county moving to help all Oakland County Residents.

Guest Speaker: Paige Holstine, Director of Operations of Oakland County Democratic Party

“OCDP On the Road”. Paige Holstine discussed the role of the OCDP and invited all to attend meetings and contact her with any questions. She advised that the role of the OCDP is to assist Democrats in Oakland County. It is their intent to meet with all the local clubs within the county and not only explain what OCDP can do to assist with their missions but also find out what the clubs need from OCDP.

There are numerous committees that focus on different issues, all Oakland County Democrats can join these committees. She invited all to the State of State watching party at the Sheet Metals Union Hall on 12 Mile Road in Southfield on January 24. There is a Top Golf event on March 10. She urged everyone to visit the website and sign up for emails to keep apprised of all the activities.

Guest Speaker: Katherine Bryant, assistant director of the Bloomfield Township Library.

Ms. Bryant discussed the upcoming mileage for the Bloomfield Township Library. The mileage will allow the library to continue to provide the quality services that the community experts. It will NOT result in an increase in resident taxes.

Announcement and Good and Welfare:

The February meeting will be held at the Township Hall. The speakers will be Matt Dzurka and Juergen Wiesenberger. They will discuss electric vehicles. Also, Club Member, Chris Chanko will present a new app called "Our Reps." Having uploaded it on your smartphone by then will help with the presentation.

Judicial Candidates Latoya Willis and Nicole Huddleston introduced themselves.

Cindy Cook spoke on behalf of Shadia Martini's fundraiser coming on Saturday, Jan. 20th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Attendees-33 + 6 Officers = 39

Howard Baron	Prasanth Balusu	Kimber Bishop-Yanke
Barbara Borden	Katherine Bryant	Chris Chanko
Cindi Cook	Dave Coulter	Jan and Criag Courter
George Dilgard	Jennifer Dwyer	Ben Esquivel
Marcia Gershenson	Sandy Hansell	Melanie Hartman
Paige Holstine	Anne Honhart	Nicole Huddleston
James Huddleston	Katie Kirkpatrick	Val Murray
Fred Newton	Robert Nicholson	Debra Quenaudon
Linda Pence	Lisa Ross	Andrew Saxe
Cynthia Shaw	Craig Spangler	Dani Walsh
Paul Williamson	Latoya Willis	Linda Zlotoff