

KCDP County Committee

1/21/21

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Agenda

- Mariah would like to add candidate and committee reports to the agenda.
- Paul Clements moved to approve the agenda with Mariah's additions. Second Thomas Whitener. Motion carries.

December Minutes

- Tracy Hall moved to approve the December minutes. Second Paul Clements. Motion carries.

Elected Official reports

- Sen. Sean McCann – Congratulations to all our local elected officials. The list is the longest it has ever been. We have come a long way in the past couple of decades. Let's keep building. We are all probably feeling a sense of relief in the swearing in of President Biden. Covid relief will be on the agenda for the state legislature. Next week Wednesday at 7 pm. the Governor will be giving her State of the State address. McCann monthly coffee hour on Thursday, 1/28 at 5 p.m. on Zoom.
- Chair Tracy Hall – Asking some patience on the vaccination front. We have almost 14,000 positive cases. 7,300 doses have been administered so far. Group 1B has about 20,000 people on the wait list. It will take some time to get through this number of people.
- Prosecutor Getting – Advocates and Leaders for Police and community trust (ALPACT) will hold next meeting next Thursday on Zoom. The discussion will be around Know Your Rights. Court proceedings are very affected by Covid. All aspects up until the trials are being done via Zoom but trials are not.
- Treasurer Whitener – Hired staff in the past couple of weeks. Thomas and other new staff are learning as fast as they can. Property Taxes that are delinquent go into forfeiture on March 1. Those in Forfeiture go into Foreclosure on April 1. If you know someone who is struggling to pay their mortgages, please let the Treasurer's office know as they have assistance available. Their goal is to have Zero foreclosures.
- Commissioner Strebs – Recognize Chair Hall's election to board chair in a unanimous vote. Dir. Rutherford spoke positively about a good plan to upscale once more vaccines are available, but they will need more volunteers. Please register at Michigan Volunteer Registry.
- Sheriff Fuller – Health Department team is doing a great job. Sen. McCann came into the Expo Center this week to see how things were going. Sheriff is constantly monitoring what happened at the Capitol. If there is something going on in our community, they will inform people as soon as they can. KCSD has 12 Deputy openings currently. Also need three cooks, three clerical, one nurse, three parole operators. Please see the website for details.

- Clerk Place – Elizabeth Bird is the new Deputy Clerk. Also hired two additional staff. County Building is closed except by appointment. They are taking appointments from 9-12 and 1-3 according to County Covid regulations. Much can be done via mail. Kalamazoo County completed a risk limiting election audit successfully. This is another check on our elections and opportunity to provide transparency. Every clerk in Kalamazoo County participated. Won't know the results until all counties in the state are in.
- Texas Township Trustee Barb Hammon – Barb has had both of her vaccines. The first dose she had a sore arm and some fatigue. 24 hours after her second shot, she had fever and felt ill. She suggested to start medicating before you get the second shot with Tylenol or other such meds.

Report of the Chair

- Great week with the inauguration with no issues. Can't get over hearing "Vice President Harris".
- Sent out a survey a few weeks ago. Biggest takeaway was members felt we could be more welcoming, making sure our meetings are run transparently, making sure our processes are transparent, overall being more organized.
- Changes to our Zoom format. 1. Members can only interact with Mariah in the chat during meetings. 2. Mariah will use the chat for information. 3. Making changes to the agenda.
- We want to remain civil and respectful to each other during our meetings. Mariah asks that we all work on this and consider what brings us to the meetings each month. We need to focus on the business.
- Mariah had her first statewide call with other chairs around the state. The MDP has a new process for credentialing.
- Office hours every Monday from 1-2 p.m. virtually and 4-6 p.m. on Thursdays in the office.
- Executive Committee retreat planned for 1/30.

Treasurer's Report

- \$32,700 at year end 2020.
- Donations are down since the election.
- Kelly Doyle reminded people that we likely will have lower donations this year as it is an off year.

Vice Chair Marshall Kilgore

- We got good feedback on the survey and we will be looking at that and using it to make positive changes to the party.
- Marshall was involved with the Truth Racial Healing and Transformation event for the Day of Racial Healing. If you want to watch the discussion, it is posted on Marshall's Facebook page.

2nd Vice Chair Ken Willcutt

- Glad to be serving as second Vice Chair.

Unfinished Business

- Mariah Phelps brought forward the slate of county committee members nominated at the December meeting.
- They are as follows: PJ Newland, Terry Watson, Dennis Harris, Mark Horton, Zak Ford, Kathleen Garland-Rike, Kathy Cooney, Don Cooney, Libby Heine-Cogswell
- Nominations for County Committee – Mark Miller moved to approve slate. Second Ken Willcutt. Motion carries.

Vacancy – Corresponding Secretary

- Mariah Phelps nominated PJ Newland as Corresponding Secretary. Kelly Doyle second. Motion carries.

Chair consulting contract

- Wendy Flora moved to approve the contract for the chair. Second Ken Willcutt. 16 yes; 1 no. Motion carries.
- Discussion: Mark Miller was concerned that the trustees had not been able to complete financial reviews annually and the agreement says quarterly. The trustees were agreeable to doing this quarterly. Millie Lambert voiced concerns that there are no timelines. Jeff Getting suggested that there might be some goals for fundraising and other benchmarks. Kelly Doyle stated that we wanted to make the agreement broader to not micro-manage our chair/consultant. We want to set Mariah up for success. There is a clause in the agreement that Mariah is accountable to the Executive Committee. Should she not be accomplishing her duties, the EC will begin to hold her accountable and if a problem still exists, the EC will bring to the County Committee for action. Millie Lambert still has concerns that we do not have any deadlines for the fundraising plan. Gary Sigman raised concerns that we have nothing in the by-laws that address the removal of officers who are not living up to their duties.
- Paul Clements moved to call the Question. Second Sheriff Fuller. Motion carries.

New Business

Committee Chairs

- Facilities, Strategic planning and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion are ad hoc committees.
- Nominations:

Communications & Education Chair	Gary Sigman
Membership Chair	Kizzy Bradford
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Chair	Doreen Gardner
Candidates & Campaigns Chair	Bill Reeves
Finance & Fundraising Chair	Meg Whitener
Bylaws Chair	Mark Miller

Volunteers Chair	Dawn Matico
Facilities Co-Chairs	Barb Hammon & Betsy Rice
Student Progressives Chair	Peyton Jorgensen
Strategic Planning	Steve Eberth

- Ken Willcut moved to approve the slate of committee chairs. Second Sean Flora. Motion carries.

Spring County Convention

- Feb. 6 10 a.m. – mandated by the MDP. State Convention will be Feb. 20
- 1 female - Credentialing Committee – Shardae Chambers
- 1 female - Rules Committee – Kizzy Bradford
- 1 male - Resolutions committee – Mark Miller

By-Law Review

- There has been interest in doing a by-law review.
- Interested members for By-Law Committee – Nicky Leigh, Doreen Gardner, Thomas Whitener, Kizzy Bradford

Nominations to the County Committee

- Mariah Phelps moved to nominate Sharon Spears to the County Committee. This will be voted on at the next meeting.

Candidate reports

- Keshia Dickason – she is a candidate for the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. She interviewed last Tuesday. She is asking for endorsements to the County Commissioners for this position.

Announcements

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement – MDP asked that the following statement be read:

- Indigenous Land Acknowledgement “The State of Michigan occupies the ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabek – Three Fires Confederacy, the Odawa (Ottawa), Ojibwe (Chippewa), and Bode'wadmi (Potawatomi). The Michigan Democratic Party recognizes historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, and those who were forcibly removed from their homelands. We further recognize the ongoing relationship of dependence upon, and respect for, all living beings of earth, sky, and water. In offering this land acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty, history, and experiences.

- You must be an MDP member by today to participate in the February convention. If you have questions regarding your mdp membership, please contact Mariah.
- The Justice Caucus is reforming. They have worked on Supreme Court races and also vetted judicial candidates. If interested in joining the Justice Caucus, please see Mark Miller. We have one district director spot open for the 6th District.
- Rep. Rogers – there have been many threats on the State Capitol. Legislature is set to return next week. The Capitol Commission is meeting on Monday again. Continue pressuring them to disallow any weapons from the Capitol. Capitol.michigan.gov/contactcommission
- District Service Office – on Burdick Street; 269-382-4676. No office hours at this time but email is being monitored.
- Steve Eberth suggested we put the land acknowledgement on a sign in the office. Mariah will investigate this.
- Paul Clements moved to adjourn. Second Meg Whitener. Motion carries.