

KCDP Executive Committee Meeting

2/11/21

In Attendance: Mariah Phelps, Nicky Leigh, Paul Clements, Steve Eberth, Sue Kovats-Bell, Marshall Kilgore, Ken Willcutt, PJ Newland, Meg Whitener, Gary Sigman, Bill Reeves, Doreen Gardner, Sharda Chambers, Barb Hammon, Betsy Rice,

January Minutes

- Marshall moved to approve the January minutes. Second Paul Clements. Motion carries.

Chair Report

- Had a retreat a couple of weekends ago. Talked about some strategies for moving forward.
- We have a lot of work to do.
- Mariah has been a part of a redistricting conversation. She had a training with Mark Brewer on the topic last week. Not expecting census numbers until June. State redistricting has also been discussed.
- Membership renewal letters sent out. Mariah did some onboarding for Kizzy as membership chair.
- Lease negotiations – Mariah met with landlord Feb 4. She will receive the lease proposal later this week. Our rent paid in January and February will stay the same, but a lower rate is expected going forward.

First Vice Chair Report – Marshall

- Marshall was on a state budget call today. He spoke with Lt. Gov. Gilchrist. \$300 M for bridges, \$40 M for water infrastructure included in the budget. This will help our local infrastructure.
- Spoke with Dion Williams, in charge of faith-based initiatives.
- Marshall is trying to make contacts in State government to help us moving forward. Often the west side is neglected.
- Marshall wants to work on diversity and inclusion and will be talking with Doreen and Cory for feedback. He wants to make sure that the KCDP works better with our candidates of color this time around.
- Wants to have lit for our candidates to say, “This is what we stand for.”

2nd Vice Chair – Ken

- Mariah and Ken Willcutt met with Calhoun County Dems about redistricting. They would like to get Calhoun County into the 6th Congressional District.

- With the rules that are put forth, we need to bring community organizations together that already work together between counties to make the case for why these counties should be in the same Congressional district.

Treasurer

- \$1915 brought in for January. Expenses \$2045.93.
- Paul started looking at the 2020 numbers and found some math errors.
- Nicky now has access to ActBlue Reports.
- She is continuing to develop procedures for finances for the party. She is writing notes in the Google drive where she is keeping these.
- There are still some by-laws issues that need to be changed so our process matches our by-laws. Mariah and Meg are working on this.

Trustees

- Working with the finance committee to do a financial review and will be doing these on a routine basis.

Candidates and Campaigns – Bill

- Bill has contacted 12-15 people about running for office. If you know of people interested in running, please let Bill know.

Communications – Gary

- Working on Facebook. Now have 6,000 followers.
- He has been watching what the Republicans are doing. The Kent County Republicans are losing “likes” as their membership is not happy with Peter Meijer.
- Sue Kovats-Bell is working on outreach. Sue could use help to identify events that are happening either in person or virtually.
- Gary is looking for volunteers in technical, writing, photography, etc.
- Mariah requested an overarching calendar. March is Women’s Month.
- Also looking at doing some events ourselves to get our name out in the community. Selling our brand.

Finance & Fundraising - Meg

- Trustees working on getting the financial review in order. Meeting again on Saturday.
- Mariah and Meg have begun discussing fundraising plans.
- Be thinking of creative ways to do fundraising events. Send ideas to Meg and Mariah.
- Wendy suggested that during Covid we may have more opportunities to get speakers. Marshall has contacts in Attorney Genl Nessel’s office and the Lt. Gov.’s office.

Membership – Mariah for Kizzy

- Kizzy couldn't be here tonight.
- Mariah has been working with Kizzy to get her up to speed on duties and

Diversity & Inclusion - Doreen

- Having a Zoom call in February Saturday with elected officials of color.
- Objective of the party is to make anyone who attends our meetings feel welcome and the organization is inclusive of all people.

Facilities – Barb & Betsy

- No update on the building.
- Barb has started working the vaccination clinic at Borgess. They sometimes have extra vaccines so if you are interested and can get to the hospital in 20 minutes, let Barb know and she can contact you.

Strategic Planning – Steve

- Sharda, Zack, Marshall, PJ, Nicky, Gary, Doreen
- He wants to committee to begin meeting to keep the strategic plan moving forward. Next step for this committee is to look at the SWOT analysis and categorize the weaknesses.

Unfinished Business

- Racial Healing Work – Wendy, Mariah and Doreen met with the TRHT group. They want to meet with the EC but still want to get some feedback before meeting with us. One idea that was brought forward was to include some story or black history item that we could include in our meetings. If you have black history items, please share with Mariah. TRHT has panel discussions periodically and Nicky suggests we should get the word out to our membership about those. United Way has a diversity 21-day challenge that people could sign into.

New Business

- Nicky has been going to the office once a week and returning calls/messages. There are questions about who will be running in city/township elections. We will have a list of what offices are open and have the filing date available. Once we have this list, maybe this could be added to the website. Mariah stated that we need to be cautious of giving out specific candidates until after the filing deadline. Cory recommended that we direct people to the county clerk's website. Mariah will seek out the information and see about getting that information on the website.

Announcements

- Atty General Nessel is coming to our March County Committee meeting.

- If you want to be a part of the statewide redistricting discussion, please let Mariah know.
- If you know anyone that wants to run for office, let Bill Reeves know.
manager@kazodems.com

Motion to adjourn by Paul Clements. Second Steve Eberth. Motion carries.