

## KCDP County Committee

3/18/21

Speaker Attorney General Dana Nessel

Meeting called to order at 7:02

### Agenda

- Thomas Whitener moved to approve the agenda. Second Tracy Hall. Motion carries.

### Minutes

- Dusty Farmer moved to approve the minutes. Second Paul Clements. Motion carries.

Indigenous Land statement was read.

### Elected Official Reports

- Sen. Sean McCann – A lot of old white men in the legislature yelling at clouds. A lot of sexist language being used, i.e., emasculated, neutered etc. regarding the Governor. Federal funds are still being held hostage and Republicans are using “sandbox” politics. American Rescue Plan will be rolling out soon and will likely be distributed before the money received in December from federal government. We know that no Republicans that voted for the American Rescue Plan. Redistricting Commission will have a meeting in Kalamazoo May 20. Virtual Coffee Hour March 25.
- Rep. Julie Rogers – thanks for Attorney General Nessel’s words. Voted three or four times on the bill packages on federal monies. Rep. Morse and Rogers are voting to get federal dollars distributed as soon as possible. Both Representatives voted against a bill today that would extend bar hours to 4 a.m. RSVP for Rep Rogers' Coffee (tomorrow @4:30 pm) by emailing JulieRogers@house.mi.gov
- Treasurer Thomas Whitener – moving ahead with the foreclosure prevention work. Brought the number of potentially foreclosed properties down to 300 and continues to work on bringing that down to zero. Kalamazoo County Land Bank started this week for the Eastside project, retail, housing, green space, artwork. Rooted Health Services Center is starting up in a land bank property. Working with Black Wall Street on a couple of projects. Starting to look outside of the city for properties for site development. Funding is an issue for the Land Bank. They will have proposals for funding that will be brought to the County Commission.
- Oshtemo Clerk Dusty Farmer – May KRESA ballot. Have already been sending out absentee ballots.
- Oshtemo Libby Heine Cogswell – homeless encampment has been moved to a hotel in Oshtemo. Working with the Continuum of Care, Open Doors among other groups.
- Rep. Christine Morse – fighting over supplemental funding of federal dollars. A portion of this went through but the Governor vetoed the tie-bar legislation for schools as it took away her

powers to act on behalf of Michiganders in this public health emergency. Working on the bottle bill to expand water bottles. Coffee a week from tomorrow. Sign up on her website or [christinemorse@house.gov](mailto:christinemorse@house.gov). \$58,000 grant going to Oshtemo Township for the Fruitbelt Trail. Should be signed by the governor soon. Week of April 5 Christine will be in town if people would like to reach out to her that would be a good week. Link for registering for Coffee. [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlof-6trTgoHd2pmxVxuns8Tz0ffsTAK-PJ?fbclid=IwAR3slpqB3dpXgB9rSIBfqwl7INsSHeNqs2CswqEsJrBlfL8OCmXq08rl\\_30](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlof-6trTgoHd2pmxVxuns8Tz0ffsTAK-PJ?fbclid=IwAR3slpqB3dpXgB9rSIBfqwl7INsSHeNqs2CswqEsJrBlfL8OCmXq08rl_30)

#### Chair Report – Mariah

- Mailing to 1500 addresses this week for fundraising.
- Sent out 20 speaker requests for potential speakers at fundraising events.
- Following up with County level issues and making sure the party is involved in the process.
- If interested in serving as a rural caucus delegate let Mariah know.
- Google form about MDP communities of interest regarding statewide redistricting. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSUXlrfwgQ4Tvgs0GmO2nCKcAkKy7z4D8Vm6xx4rCCrW2DOQ/viewform>
- Please don't try to reach Mariah at [manager@kazoodems.com](mailto:manager@kazoodems.com). Her new email is [chair@kazoodems.com](mailto:chair@kazoodems.com)

#### Treasurer's Report – Nicky

- Took in \$1257; poor for the month.
- \$29,699 in bank.
- March funding not going very well either.
- Encourages people to make contributions to the KCDP.

#### Vice Chair Marshall

- Great to get vaccine from Mothers of Hope clinic. Has had little side effects.
- He will be sending out a questionnaire to candidates of color for feedback on the last election.
- Marshall and Keshia Dickason will have an event at 5 p.m. next Thursday. Keshia is the first black female on the Road Commission.

#### Candidate Recruitment – Bill Reeves

- Getting interest from people to run in municipal elections.

#### Communications/Events – Sue

- Doo Dah Parade June 5
- Earth Day will be a virtual event

#### Finance/Fundraising

- Need to get fundraising kicked into high gear.
- Looking for new members for this committee.
- Finishing up the budget audit. Report forthcoming.
- We need people to help fundraise.

#### Rules and By-Laws

- By-Laws committee will be meeting soon. TBD

#### Volunteer – Dawn

- The list of soon to be purged names needs to be updated. Opportunities for call volunteers available for this.

#### DEI – Doreen

- Thanks to all who tuned into the Trailblazers event.
- Meeting with TRHT tomorrow

#### Facilities – Betsy

- Need more people on the committee.
- Looking to do some projects including painting the bathroom and cleaning out the closet.

#### Strategic Planning

- The committee has identified five goals.
- More work on this forthcoming

#### New Business

- Betsy Rice moved to elect Gracie Palmer to the County Committee. Second Cory King. Gracie would like to serve as Student Progressives chair. Wants to encourage younger activism. Good connections to the WMU Dems. Motion Carries. This will be voted on next month.
- Cory King nominated Mary Harmon to the County Committee. This will be voted on next month.
- KRESA Millage – EC recommends that we endorse the KRESA Millage. Millie Lambert moved to endorse the KRESA millage. Second Doreen Gardner. Discussion: Critical funding in this millage especially with uncertain State Funding. This is equitably distributed to every school district. Special Education is required by federal and state government, but this does not include funding. KRESA millage is critical to fund special ed. Motion carries by unanimous vote.
- Wendy Flora moved to appoint Gracie Palmer to the Student Progressive Committee. Second Mike Seals. Motion carries.

Candidate Committee Reports – none

Announcements

MDP Voter Protection Team

- By June they will have a voter protection hotline going.
- Trainings will be forthcoming.
- Potential purged voters will be contacted.

Violence Against Women Act

- Namita Sharma asked that we make a statement about the Violence Against Woman Act and condemn the violence against women especially minorities and condemn the Republicans that voted against this act. Tracy Hall and Gary Sigman volunteered to help with the verbiage on this and we can vote on it at next meeting.

Vaccines

- Vaccination clinics have been going on downtown. Betsy volunteered for one of these clinics. Please consider volunteering at a vaccine clinic. Could we as a party put out a press release regarding the community's response to vaccines?

Women's History Month Event March 25 6-7 p.m. on Facebook