

## KCDP County Committee Meeting

2/18/21

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Flora, secretary

Called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement was read.

### Agenda

- Marshall Kilgore moved to approve the agenda. Ken Willcutt seconded. Motion carries.

### Minutes

- Zak Ford moved to approve the January minutes. Ken Willcutt seconded. Motion carries.

### Elected Official report

- Sen. Sean McCann – President Biden is coming tomorrow to tour Pfizer. Sen. McCann and Rep. Morse are likely going to be there. The problem with vaccine availability started at the federal level with the last President. President Biden is trying to change that. Independent Citizen's redistricting commission is going to have meetings across the state. They released a list of locations and Kalamazoo or Battle Creek do not seem to be on this list. It is appropriate for citizens to bring this to their attention. Governor is dealing with a supplemental budget with funds from last year to be used. The legislature is sort of holding this money hostage. Please contact other legislators to move this forward. 2022 Budget is also on the table. Trying to get as much of this passed as possible. Sen. Majority Shirkey has been getting national attention on Covid and election comments. His spokeswoman resigned today and is going to work for Dana Nessel. Many organizations are leaving SWMF due to the hiring of former State Representative Lee Chatfield. Keep up pressure on this. Virtual coffee hour Feb. 26 9 a.m.
- Clerk Meredith Place – new elections coordinator was hired. Sharda Chambers [elections@kalcounty.com](mailto:elections@kalcounty.com) Direct line 384-8080. Two jobs opening in the clerk's office watch for this. Currently the Clerk's office is open by appointment only. Soon there will be appointments over the lunch hour. Now accepting credit cards. First County ID Advisory Board Meeting last night. The County ID program is not currently running but it is a priority to get it back online.
- Chair Tracy Hall – On Tuesday there was an update on the vaccine clinics here in the county. In the last week there were four clinics. 3200 vaccines were administered this past week. Proud of the work that the Health Director and staff are doing. Approximately 19,000 vaccines have been administered to date. Discussion at last meeting about divesting \$75,000 from SWMF. There will be a vote at the next meeting. With the homophobic comments that were made by Commissioner Shugars are there any repercussions for this? There is not a lot that can be done

officially. His language was intentional, and he is calculating. Tracy does plan to talk with Shugars about his comments. [Tracy.hall@kalscounty.com](mailto:Tracy.hall@kalscounty.com)

- Treasurer Whitener – working on foreclosure prevention in the county and hope to have 0 foreclosures. If you know of anyone that is having trouble, please contact Treasurer Whitner. [tlwhit@kalscounty.com](mailto:tlwhit@kalscounty.com). Feb. 24 will be a meeting to discuss how the housing millage funds will be used. Three topics to be discussed. 1. Rental housing instability; 2. New housing needed; 3. What sort of supportive housing services are needed? County has created a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee for the Land Bank. They are continuing to focus on transformational projects.
- Rep Morse – excited to be hosting President Biden tomorrow. Coffee on Monday please go to website or Facebook page to sign up for a link to attend.
- Commissioner Zac Bauer – congratulations to Keshia Dickason who was named to the County Road Commission. You can also send your ideas for the Housing millage to any of the county commissioners.
- Rep. Julie Rogers – great Diversity and Inclusion training today. Democratic Caucus is funding a DEI coordinator position who will review bills with a DEI lens before they go forward. Rep. Rogers introduced legislation to expand the Elliott Larsen act to include LGBTQ+ Community. Submitted a Roe v. Wade resolution that went to committee. Monthly coffee 8:30-9:30 tomorrow. Register [julierogers@house.mi.gov](mailto:julierogers@house.mi.gov)

#### Chair Report Mariah Phelps

- Mariah shared the Robert's Rules Basics and New Member Welcome packet.
- Preparing for the MDP convention on Saturday.
- Working on redistricting. Went to a training with Mark Brewer on this.
- Part of statewide conversations about the state redistricting and the possibility of Calhoun County being a part of the 6<sup>th</sup> District. They are looking for members for a steering committee.
- Committees are beginning to meet. Payton has decided that he cannot handle the load of chair on the Student Progressive Committee. Mariah is working on getting a new person.
- Rent will stay the same, but our landlord will make a \$100 contribution to the party monthly. The Landlord will be working on fixing the windows.

#### Treasurer Nicky Leigh

- \$1925 brought in and \$2400 spent in January.
- \$33,197 bank balance at the end of January

#### Vice Chair Marshall Kilgore

- Great Town Hall with LT. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist.
- Would like to have a call about what the DEI committee is doing to pair up the work.
- Trying to talk with State officials to get them to the west side of the state.

#### Ken Willcutt

- Pfizer vaccine facilities will be completed soon which will double the output in the next 90-100 days.

#### Trustees – Paul Clements

- Trustees are moving forward with a financial review. Working to make sure all last year's documents are correct and that moving forward our finances are reviewed regularly.

#### Financial Committee – Meg Whitener

- Trustees and the Finance and Fundraising committee are working on the financial review. Meeting on Saturday afternoons to touch base and develop a report for the County Committee. Fundraising Committee needs members. [finance@kzoodems.com](mailto:finance@kzoodems.com)

#### Candidate Recruitment and Campaigns – Bill Reeves

- Recruiting candidates for the City of Kalamazoo and Portage elections. Need help with out-county candidates. [manager@kzoodems.com](mailto:manager@kzoodems.com)

#### Communications – Gary Sigman

- Went over 6,000 likes on Facebook this week.
- A lot of traffic on the anti-Shirkey and Chatfield pieces. Call the SWMF office to express your displeasure with Chatfield hire.5539588

#### Membership – Kizzy Bradford

- Working with Mariah to get reminder letters out a month before expiration.
- Tough to do much recruitment during the pandemic but is working with her kids to try to recruit some young people.
- If you have ideas for membership, contact Kizzy at [membership@kzoodems.com](mailto:membership@kzoodems.com)

#### DEI – Doreen Gardner

- In honor of black history month, we are having a panel with black civic leaders on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. on the KCDP page. Invite people through the Facebook event.
- Resolution is being brought forward to begin to build trust in the community. See attached.
- This will be introduced later in the meeting.

#### Strategic Planning Committee – Steve Eberth

- A Doodle poll was sent to anyone who was interested in being on this committee to determine a meeting date.

#### Unfinished Business

- Marshall Kilgore moved to elect Sharon Spears to the County Committee. Motion carries.

#### New Business

#### Count Committee Nominations

- Kizzy Bradford moved to add Tracy Palmer to the County Committee. This will be voted on next month.

#### DEI Resolution

See attached.

Doreen Gardner moved to adopt this resolution. Marshall Kilgore seconded. **26 yes; 1 no; motion passes.**

#### Discussion on Resolution

- Millie Lambert expressed opposition to the motion as it only includes African-Americans. She also has concerns that we are reading the land proclamation at each meeting. Mariah stated that the reading of the Indigenous People's proclamation was a directive from the MDP.
- Cory King expressed support for the resolution as did Jen Strebs. The DEI committee had been abandoned and Cory had to build it back up in the past year. There is a lot of work that needs to be done and this is a good start.
- Jen stated that the racial climate in our country needs to be at the forefront for our organization.
- Paul Clements appreciates Millie's concerns but in our country race and oppression of blacks has been an oppression for hundreds of years and has been brought to the forefront this year. This does not diminish other groups.
- Kathy & Don Cooney thanked those that brought the resolution forward. It is time to put this into practice.
- Marshall Kilgore stated that this is the start of many ways we can expand our diversity. This is a first step and African Americans are a marginalized group that we are bringing forward with this resolution. We have to recognize that the black community was instrumental in building our country but was still marginalized.
- Bill Reeves brought up the fact that in the last election cycle there was a lot of hurt and this is a good place to begin healing.
- Nicky Leigh supports the resolution but also feels we should continue to recognize other marginalized groups going forward.

## Announcements

- Elanor Riley is running for 6<sup>th</sup> District Chair. The meeting is this Saturday. 6<sup>th</sup> District did a great job recruiting having a very full ballot of Democrats in November. Rural areas were not as successful in winning these seats, however. We need to work together on this going forward.
- Attorney General Nessel will be joining our meeting in March. Meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.
- Rank MI Vote will be having a presentation about ranked voting on February 25.
- Notices for meetings will be coming from P.J. Newland our new Corresponding secretary.
- Chokwe Pitchford and Marshall Kilgore will be doing a presentation this Saturday at 3 p.m. on Facebook.
- David Heflin is in hospice and not expected to live much longer. Warm thoughts to the Heflin family.
- MDP got a list of people who will be purged from the voter rolls next month. MDP is planning to hold phone banks to call likely Dems to get these folks registered.
- Unitarian Universalist on Shaver Road is one of the places accepting gifts for the NAACP baby shower on Saturday, from 9-11 a.m. Diapers are a hot commodity or checks and other baby supplies.

Paul Clements moved to adjourn. Second Ken Willcut. Motion carries.

Declaration of Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

WHEREAS, February is observed as Black History Month to recognize and celebrate the contributions Black Americans have made and continue to make to our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party bylaws clearly state “the KCDP shall strive to increase participation of traditionally underrepresented citizens; and

WHEREAS, the commitment to dismantle systemic racism must be ongoing and intentional; and

WHEREAS, all members are responsible for making participation in our organization a safe, positive, and productive experience for everyone; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party recognizes and honors the past, present, and future of black voters, candidates, and elected officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party will ensure that all of our policies and associated practices are equitable and inclusive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party commits to engage in racial healing and equity training in 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party declares our accelerated efforts to establish and pursue diversity, equity, and inclusion.