

## KCDP County Committee

4/15/21

Meeting called to order at 7:11 p.m.

### Agenda

- Marshall Kilgore moved to amend the agenda to include the election of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair. Second Wendy Flora. Marshall is stepping down from his position to run for City Commission. [Marshallkilgore.mk@gmail.com](mailto:Marshallkilgore.mk@gmail.com) is his personal email if you need to reach him. This is added to the agenda without objection.

### Minutes

- Julie Rogers moved to approve the March minutes. Second Paul Clements. Motion carries.

### Elected Official Reports

- Rep. Julie Rogers – she introduced several bills. HB4645 was introduced to repeal Medicaid work requirements. Thanks to Rep. Morse for co-sponsoring. HB4592 – Prevailing wage legislation allowing local governments to set prevailing wage requirements. HB 4955 – update and make high school requirements more flexible. Coffee tomorrow sign up at [julierogers@house.mi.gov](mailto:julierogers@house.mi.gov).
- Rep. Christine Morse – Senate introduced 36 bills regarding voting. Three are okay but the rest are suppressing the vote. Bill coming out next week that makes the courts put every document online that can be accessed by anyone without security. Rep. Morse is against this bill. Court records were never meant to be fully accessible to the public. Office handling UIA. There have been a lot of data breaches and Rep. Morse is introducing a bill to protect victims of identity theft because of these breaches. [ChristineMorse@house.mi.gov](mailto:ChristineMorse@house.mi.gov)
- Clerk Meredith Place – Kalamazoo county ID program is back open. ID program coordinator is Peyton Jorgenson. Open by appointment only. County reapportionment process will not start soon. Waiting for census result which will likely not be available until September. There is a May election that are school elections. Please vote! [mxplac@kalcounty.com](mailto:mxplac@kalcounty.com)
- Treasurer Thomas Whitener – his office has just gone through the foreclosure cycle. Had a historic low in foreclosures for the county. Only 29 parcels were foreclosed on and no occupied properties were foreclosed on. [tlwhit@kalcounty.com](mailto:tlwhit@kalcounty.com)
- Bret Padgett – Thanks to Sen. McCann and Rep. Rogers for their work on Morrow Dam and Eagle Creek

### Chair Report

- Newsletter coming out soon. Plan to do this quarterly.
- Fundraising ongoing. Committee is looking for members.
- Brown Todd Wolpe event will happen sometime this year. Date TBD.

- Recruiting people to give testimony at the State redistricting meeting in May
- This month is Sexual Assault Awareness month. Mariah has resources if you or someone you know needs assistance. Sexual Assault Awareness Month resources:  
<https://www.nsvrc.org/saam>
- Trivia Night – April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/kcdptrivia>
- Tomorrow at 7:30 protest downtown in solidarity with Daunte Wright.
- 6<sup>th</sup> District Committee meeting Saturday at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Reach out if you need sign in information.

#### Treasurer's Report

- Fundraising event last month giving us about \$4000 in income last month. This did not cover all our expenses.

#### Committee Reports

##### Candidate Recruitment – Bill Reeves

- Looking for more help to find candidates for Portage and Parchment in particular.

##### Communications – Gary Sigman

- Things going well online.
- Had a committee meeting this month. Emily Adams is helping on Twitter. Would like more people on this committee.
- Have a great following on Facebook. We are the dominant political presence on Facebook in West Michigan.
- Sue Kovats-Bell working hard to get events on Facebook.
- Doo Dah parade may be live.
- Pride will be virtual this year.

##### Finance & Fundraising – Meg Whitener

- Sent an email to recruit people for the fundraising committee. Please contact Meg to join.

##### Membership – Mariah for Kizzy

- Kizzy has been going through some things. Shoot her an email of support.

##### By-Laws

- Review will be coming up.

##### Volunteer/Facilities

- Dawn needs more volunteers to staff the office.
- Waiting for a list of purged likely Dems to make calls.

- Want to do more cleaning and painting in the building.
- Leak in the toilet
- [volunteer@kzoodems.com](mailto:volunteer@kzoodems.com)

#### DEI – Doreen

- Doreen met with TRHT and will be working with Mariah to plan next steps.

#### Student Progressives – Gracie

- Goal of committee is to recruit young activists to work on campaigns.
- Has contacted K-College Dems and other WMU groups.
- Will be reaching out to Gary Sigman to work on social media.
- [students@kzoodems.com](mailto:students@kzoodems.com)

#### Unfinished Business

- Nominee for County Committee – Mary Harman. Paul Clements moved to approve Mary to County Committee. Second Gary Sigman. Motion carries.

#### New Business

##### Galesburg/Augusta Bond Proposal

- Executive Committee recommends endorsing this bond proposal. Motion carries.

##### Nominations for County Committee

- Paul Clements nominates Mike Seals for the County Committee. This will be voted on at the May meeting.

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair

- Ken Willcutt is willing to step into 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair position. This would leave the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair seat open.
- Mark Miller nominated Ken Willcutt for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair. Second Barb Hammon. Motion carries.
- If interested in running for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, please contact Mariah.

##### Community Garden

- Democratic Socialist Party is building a community garden on the northside. Betsy Rice is interested in helping them.
- They are looking to raise \$3000.
- Mariah will look into this more to see how the KCDP may be able to get involved in this project.

##### Violence Against Asian Americans

- Very troubling.
- What can the County Party do to acknowledge this?
- KCDP has issued two statements about Asian Hate crimes and Violence Against Women.
- Next month is Asian Pacific Islander month. Millie asked if the DEI committee could develop a resolution in recognition of our Asian/Pacific Islander friends. This will be completed.

#### Candidate Reports

- Representatives will be making phone calls to check on folks to give them vaccine information. If you are interested to help with this phone bank contact Christine Morse's office.
- Marshall Kilgore – gearing up for City Commission race. He is not making this public until May. Contact Marshall to discuss priorities for the city. Please keep this an inside secret until his announcement.
- Shardae Chambers – Election Coordinator for Kalamazoo County – Each city has different requirements. City of Kalamazoo will not accept affidavits until May 17. Need 50 city residents on petition. City of Portage M-F stop in office and pick up affidavit and petitions. Need 50-100 signatures. City of Parchment can file now. Only need 6-20 Parchment residents' signatures. They are not open due to Covid so you need to make an appointment.  
[elections@kalcounty.com](mailto:elections@kalcounty.com) 384-8080.

#### Announcements

- Bringing back a speaker's series at Third Thursday. If you have available speakers, please let Mariah know. Next month – Rank My Vote; July Mark Brewer
- College Dems held an event last week to help low-income folks with food and house supplies. If you can donate to help with these types of projects, please do.  
<https://venmo.com/wmucollegedemocrats>
- Terra Bielby is now the EC for the District Service Office and legislative aide in Lansing for Julie Rogers. Looking for applicants for internships. Golf Outing coming up for DSO and CSC.

Indigenous Lands statement read.