

## KCDP County Committee Meeting

6/17/21

### Agenda

- Ken Willcutt moved to approve the agenda. Second Barb Hammon. Motion carries.

### May Minutes

- Betsy Rice moved to approve the May minutes. Second Ken Willcutt. Motion carries.

### Elected Official Reports

- County Committee Chair Tracy Hall – tomorrow is the deadline to apply for the vacancy for District 2. Budget survey is open until June 30. [https://www.kalcounty.com/Budget survey](https://www.kalcounty.com/Budget%20survey). Click on the pop up
- Rep. Julie Rogers – Republicans took a bill introduced by a Democrat on streamlining the unemployment process and replaced with a bad bill that includes removing the \$300 federal monies. All Democrats who were sponsoring the original bill removed their names. Bad bill passed on party line vote. Coffee hour tomorrow 8:30-9:30 am. Will be the last Zoom coffee hour. Town Hall on lead next month.
- Sen. McCann – John Curran – Republicans moved forward three of the voter suppressions bills and these passed along party lines.
- Treasurer Thomas Whitener – budget process for the county is ongoing. There is a poll for people to give feedback on the budget. Set up to receive American Rescue Act funds on the treasury side of this process. Working toward the August tax auction. Put out an offer to a Deputy Treasurer candidate. Landbank has picked a construction manager Glass & Associates for the East side square project. This will bring 19 Townhomes as well as retail space.
- Trustee Kizzy Bradford – June 27 Music in the Park. Free but will be selling raffle tickets for prizes. This will be a monthly event in Oshtemo. Open to all.
- Rep. Christine Morse – budget season for the state. Deadline may be moved to September 1. Will be voting on supplemental appropriations for education funds. Both Rep. Morse and Rep. Rogers are knocking legislative doors to get feedback from constituents.

Indigenous Land Statement was read.

### Report of the Chair

- Brown Todd Wolpe coming up in October
- Fundraiser last month with the Lt. Gov.
- Fundraiser next week at Lawton Ridge Winery.  
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/kcdppartyparty>

- Mariah will be out of town next week. She will have her phone with her and will be checking email.
- Looking for input on the endorsement questionnaire.

#### Report of the Treasurer

- First month that our income was more than our expenses this year.
- \$27146.43 in the bank.
- Fundraisers in the last two months have been working great through ActBlue.

#### Officer reports

- Vice Chair Ken Willcutt – working on the BTW. Met with Niko's Landing. Cash Bar. Buffet dinner. Time TBD. Menu is set. Barb Hammon has secured entertainment. October 23. More information to come.

#### Committee Chair Reports

#### Communications and Education

- Good month on social media. Were in front of 10,000 on Twitter and 13,000 on Facebook.
- Events – Virtual Pride, Richland Independence Day, Black Arts Festival. Looking for volunteers to table.
- If you have events that you want KCDP to table at or participate in, contact Sue KB.

#### Finance

- Party with the Party – next week in person at Lawton Ridge. Raffle that night.
- July event – Paul Clements having a house party brunch.
- Brown Todd Wolpe – Thanks to all who are working on this.
- Finance meeting 4 p.m. on Sunday at HQ.

#### Membership

- Will have a membership table at Bronco Bash at WMU.
- With things opening back up, membership will be starting to get out into the community.

#### Rules and By-Laws

- Committee has met and developed some changes for the by-laws.

#### Volunteer Coordination

- Dawn is looking for volunteers for the Richland July 4 Parade.

#### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Doreen explained that she had some family medical issues as well as being in a class on Thursday nights which is why she has been absent of late.
- DEI committee will be meeting again soon.
- TRHT will be working with us on Diversity.
- Excited about the new Juneteenth National Holiday!

#### Strategic Planning

- Working document has been presented to the EC. Will be reviewing with the EC to recommend

#### Unfinished Business

#### **Recommendation: Kalamazoo Defender Campaign for Criminal Justice Transparency**

Dale Mitchell – Speaker from ALPACT – Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust, arm of the Civil Rights Commission

- Co-Chairs Sabrina Pritchett Evans and Jeff Getting
- Transparency Group – one question that was directed at the Prosecuting Attorney and Sheriff Fuller was about transparency in the prosecutorial process. Prosecutor Getting is supportive of the idea however there is always an issue with funding.
- Many local organizations have signed onto the letter such as ISAAC, Kalamazoo Community Foundation and YWCA among others.
- Carlton Mayer was hired to help on transparency issue. Well known for his work in police reform. He found ongoing funding through the McArthur Foundation.
- Mr. Mitchell said this is a non-partisan project. They are doing what is best for the country.
- July 6 they are looking to bring the letter to the Kalamazoo County Commission meeting for support.
- The database will be aggregate information and will not include names or individuals.
- Looking to create a database from the time a case reaches the prosecutor's office through the end of the sentencing. Police stop data will not be included at this time because there are many different jurisdictions.
- Currently the community has no way to know data on who is being prosecuted. The objective of this database will be to have data to drive policy around prosecution and equity.
- The money received from the MacArthur Foundation is contingent upon a Citizens review board being formed. The makeup and design of this advisory board is not yet known and is in formation. Dale hopes that this advisory board does have teeth to act if a violation is found.

#### Joe Hawver – Prosecutor's office

- Transparency in the prosecutor's office is very important.
- Concerns about this proposal: funding, prosecutor's office is currently seeking, grants and state funding for transparency. Working with the County Commission to add positions to the office.

He also stated privacy concerns. This is a concern in domestic violence cases according to prosecutor. Resource constraints in the office.

Wendy Flora reiterated Mr. Mitchell's comment that this will be aggregate data. No names or identifying information will be disclosed of either victims or defendants.

Paul Clements moved that we support the EC recommendation to sign onto the letter for transparency. Motion unanimously passes.

#### Election of Vacant Office Positions

- Sharda Chambers nominated Meg Whitener for trustee. We will take this up at next meeting.

#### New Business

##### **Recommendation: Pride Month Resolution**

- Tracy Hall moved to support the Pride Month resolution. Second Paul Clements. Resolution passes unanimously.

#### Candidate/Candidate Committee Reports

- Christine Morse is having an in-person July 14 at Texas Township pavilion. Hope you can join us.
- Don Cooney – is running for City Commission. Announcement will be next Thursday at MLK Park at 6:30 p.m. Please join before the Party with the Party.

#### Announcements

- The Kalamazoo County Clerk's office will open July 1<sup>st</sup> for in person visits. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Open during the lunch hour. County ID mobile unit happening at El Concilio 12:30-2:30. Please take the County budget survey.
- MDP anti-voter suppression is in full force. Need volunteers to help observe clerk's offices in Portage and Kalamazoo. If interested contact Namita Sharma.
- Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition will have event on Juneteenth celebrating graduations of POC.
- CARES Brunch July 24 at CARES office. This supports the client care fund.
- Marshall Kilgore mond June 28 with Tracy Hall
- Thanks for the positive feedback on Don Cooney's announcement. Please continue to send good vibes and prayers for Bill Reeves health.
- June 30 Shortcake with the Sheriff at Schrier Park from 5-7 p.m.
- Janet Graham fell and is in serious condition. Her grandchildren have come and her son. She has a brain bleed. On her Facebook page, there is a sign up to visit her to read to her or just sit with her.
- MDP is putting together a Summer of Action regarding voter suppression. They will be knocking doors and making calls soon. Looking for volunteers.

## Adjournment

- Ken Willcutt moved to adjourn. Second Martha Cohen. Motion carries.