

Democrats of Greater Novi

Membership meeting minutes: Tuesday, August 20, 2019, 6:30pm, Novi United Methodist Church.

***NOTE:** all ballots cast by club members in good standing as determined by the bylaws

Chair **Brittany Pinnock** calls meeting to order at 6:32

Minutes from the July 16 meeting approved, agenda approved,

Chair's Report : Dave Coulter appointed Oakland County Executive, first Democrat. Please support your local candidates. Next meeting: Candidate Q&A. Need club members to serve on committees. MDP holding series of webinars - see email. Debate watch party Sept 12 @ Northville Sports Den. Joint canvass with 11th District Democrats (update: canvass moved to Sept 21).

Treasurer's Report (Marian Mahoney): collecting contributions for Bob Ellison scholarship fund

Vice Chair Martinez: Aug 5 working during election on Voter Protection Team. Looking for election challengers; work with poll workers, make sure no eligible voter is turned away, have power to intervene. Contact him at amartinez719@gmail.com if interested.

Elected Officials Report:

Kameshia Gant (Oakland County 6th Circuit Court Judge): appointed by Gretchen Whitmer in Family Division, started on bench in June, criminal, civil & family background, from Southfield, active in Dems club, will need to run in 2020 to keep her seat. Cannot start campaigning or fundraising until April 2020 if an opponent(s) has filed.

Kelly Breen (Novi City Councilmember): Special study session: major road projects in Novi, Committee underway to look at big road projects, see city website - capital improvement programs, work with county \$87 million dollar budget, community center: advocating for maker space, alternative road materials, water main study 5.8 miles identify problem spots. new ordinance for vaping, cannot vape under age, broadband initiative committee, looking at new network, pilot program for recycling bins in novi parks, add station for doggie waste bags, last meeting: 2 middle school robotics teams came in to talk about bond initiative: NO INCREASE IN TAXES, will include robotics space in high school, upgrade safety features & technology, redoing Tim Pope playground, ITC trail opening soon, Pct 12 voting location, MML policy committee, not supporting ban on sanctuary cities, facial recognition technology - we are on international border, talk to "3 letter agencies" before banning, make it easier for first responders to get worker's compensation for post-traumatic stress. has updated City of Novi budget, SEMCOG transportation plans. Questions about voting precinct locations.

Gwen Markham (County Commissioner, District 9): recap of appointment of new Oakland County Commissioner, Democrat Dave Coulter, mayor of Ferndale, former county commissioner, may run for county exec or state rep in 2020, 1st Dem ever to hold exec seat, treasurer, county clerk, water resources commissioner all Dems, only republican is the Sheriff.

Novi Mayoral and City Council Candidates:

Colleen Crossey: social worker, advocate of reduced development, does not support tax abatements for businesses, fill former Sears location with small businesses, opportunity for youth/high school students, having community conversation meetings

Tia Marie Sanders: worked for city of Novi, ran nonprofit programs, Feed the Need, priority of mental health, symposium on Sept 28 at Novi Middle School w/ 56 clubs in district, ~4000 residents who do not have daily needs met, committed to reducing that number, diversity & leadership issues in Novi, willing to collaborate with others, working with interfaith network, wants to focus on kids in the community.

Carolyn Upton: worked on Hillary Clinton campaign, joined a Dems club for the first time after the 2016 election, want to avoid overdevelopment of city, showed chart of number of trees removed by the city yearly, tax abatements too high, encouraging club members to be involved in local government

Christine Ingles: Novi government currently catering to businesses, wants to expand fire department, Christine for Mayor of Novi on Facebook, going to garage & estate sales to talk to voters, concerned about lack of affordable housing in Novi, losing heritage sites, vacant commercial properties, environmental consequences of development

Brian Watson: Message Framing. Goal is to get Dems acting like Republicans. Message for the past 40 years: "Government is the problem". Grover Norquist handed out talking points: all the Republicans were giving the same message. Trump is a master at conveying his message. "Fix the damn roads" was great message from Gretchen Whitmer; rare example of good messaging from a Democrat. Framing and Messaging - handed out one page cheat sheet. For a successful message, need to talk in terms they understand, how the person will frame the message. "tax cut" vs. "tax relief". "global warming" vs. "climate change". "pro-life". Important to pay attention to our messaging. Advocate for: "empathy", honesty truth fairness equality kindness. Qualities that make us liberal, distinguish us from Republicans. Working on putting together webinars about message framing. Has a Facebook group.

Aaron Martinez (subbing for Beth Morris, Chair of Endorsement & Candidate Recruitment Committee). Committee tasked with endorsing candidates in a contested election with no primary. All candidates seeking endorsement filled out a comprehensive questionnaire and were interviewed. Applicants were required to be club members, show a commitment to Democratic party values, policies and principles, and have plans that demonstrate that. In particular, want to endorse the best candidate for the City Council 2-yr position so that we do not split our vote. Recommending the club endorse Christine Ingles, Tia Marie Sanders, Colleen Crossey, and Carolyn Upton. No recommendation yet for the school bond issue pending more research; recommendation coming at next meeting.

- Aaron Martinez makes a MOTION to adopt the committees' recommendation to endorse Christine Ingles for Mayor, Tia Marie Sanders and Colleen Crossey for 4-yr term, and Carolyn Upton for 2-yr term. MOTION CARRIES unanimously.
- Marian Mahoney makes a MOTION that the club adopt the Exec Board's recommendation to donate \$500 to each endorsed candidate. MOTION CARRIES unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- **Planning & Fundraising:** (Marian Mahoney) Meeting immediately following this meeting at Library Pub, please join.

Unfinished Business: regarding a member's suggestion that our bylaws be amended to remove the requirement that members must be in good standing for 30 days to be able to vote. The answer from the MDP is that our club must conform to MDP bylaws which contain that requirement, so we would not be able to make the change, and no vote can be held.

New Business

Executive Board Appointment

Appointment of Member at Large to fill vacancy; simple majority needed to pass. The Exec Board recommends that Beth Morris be appointed to fill the Member at Large position. MOTION to appoint Beth Morris as Executive Board Member at Large; MOTION PASSES unanimously.

Two Minute Announcements

- Louise Weller: 11th District Dems invite to next meeting Weds, Haley Stevens speaking, Livonia Democrats having Trivia Night on Sept 27 at Burton Manor in support of Haley Stevens, \$35 per person
- Kelly Breen: fundraiser tomorrow at Tim Lakowski in Northville, outdoor picnic, 38th district one of the top seats to flip.
- Brian Smith: Day of Action Sat Aug
- Abby, DCCC representative, helping protect 11th district which is labeled competitive, volunteer training & canvassing, helped with Gretchen Whitmer & ONE campaigns.
- Diane Smith: goal to get every Precinct Delegate filled, Oct 26 PD training in Novi
- Ailesha Dwells, Mother in Justice, Social Justice organization, paid sick leave, affordable child care, raising minimum wage, women's health, paid family leave. Meet in Farmington Hills, Momma Summit on Saturday.
- Colleen Crossey: thanks for campaign contribution from club, hosting Community Conversations with Colleen Crossey, fundraiser Sun by Improv Comedy group.
- Northville fundraiser at home of Tom & Janet Hess, 399 Rayson, \$35/person, Aug 24.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm

50/50 raffle held