



**Bethlehem City Democratic Committee –
General Meeting: May 8, 2023
Northampton Community College Fowler Center Rm 114)**

MINUTES

Call to Order at 7:05 (Ben Felzer, Chair)

Secretary Report: Minutes from April 2023

>>Motion to table approval of minutes (Patrice Teltser) seconded (Lorraine Pasquali); approved

Treasurer's report: Report of April, 2023

Candidates: Filed on Primary ballot, requesting time to speak:

Kathy Fox stepped forward to run a write-in campaign to appear on the November ballot for Bethlehem City Treasurer. She gave a prepared statement that included biography, qualifications, and history of city-wide community involvement.

County/State Party reports:

Northampton County: (Matt Munsey, online):

Lehigh County: Mark Moss announced that Lehigh County Poll Watcher Credentials for Lehigh County available through LV4All, deadline is tomorrow (5/9).

Canvassing and lit-drops for primary are underway.

State Democratic Committee meeting will be held in Pittsburgh this summer. Several members cannot attend and will need proxies to attend on their behalf. Contact Lehigh County Dems if you are interested (Lehigh County residents).

State: (Michael Laws) No report (no recent meetings).

Subcommittee Reports GOTV, Voter Registration, Communications, Fundraising

GOTV (Ben Felzer):

In the next two weeks it is important for PCPs to canvass. The committee attempted to reach all PCPs by phone with limited results. Ben can provide precinct lists for canvassing, and those lists can be filtered to target voters most likely to vote. For canvassers, there is information about the ballot for Lehigh and Northampton Counties posted on the website, available to download and print, and leave with voters. It is important to identify races that allow candidates of any party to cross-file (school board and county judicial), and the importance of voting for registered Democrats (BASD, County Council).

This is likely to be a particular issue for "BASD At-large" because the Republican cross-filed candidate is listed first, and Shively second. Discussion: Campaign signs for BASD slate are

hard to find because they ran out. They are needed for polling locations. And, Shively's signs are needed for eight precincts in the City. Possibility raised whether we might have additional signs printed. Unclear if there is enough time.

Motion: Budget up to \$100.00 toward additional signs. Approved.

Outreach (Toni Fernandez):

Voter registration: Rosemary Hensel reported on working voter registration at NCC Fowler center (second Wednesday of each month, 11am – 1pm).

Old Business:

City Council Candidate Debate: report / summary given by Ben Felzer. Recorded and posted. Additional Comments from Ricky Butler, Celeste Dee, Kathy Harrington, Josh Pepper (watched recording online—audio needed improvement)

Ed O'Brien Dinner: Steelworkers Union Hall, May 7:

Pulse of the Primary (Northampton County) summary from Ben

New Business:

Events:

Summer Solstice event: Ben Felzer inquired about use of Democratic clubs in the city but none were available. Rudy's, on Center Street is available, and the people there have been helpful. Rosemary: past experience with this venue was positive. Also discussed: possibilities, suggestions for music, contact: Jeanne McNeill 484-201-4300.

Summer Picnic: LV4All asked and agreed to co-sponsor Annual summer picnic on 50/50 basis.

Lynnfield Community Center: This is a Community Event held after Labor Day. Lynnfield is a community of 200 residents in east Bethlehem, off Lynn Ave. We have permission to use an outside area for barbeque. We can provide information about what our elected representatives are doing, our candidates, and voter registration info. Budget request needed.

Member Forum:

Lehigh Valley 4 All: Printed palm cards available for canvassing and lit-drop. One side for Lehigh, the other for Northampton. Note that these cards list their endorsed candidates.

Brian Lucas: Shared his personal experience of the previous evening during an active shooter threat on Lehigh University campus. Spoke to the experience of gun violence.

Motion to adjourn Celeste Dee; seconded: Brian Lucas. Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:37 PM

Submitted by: Patrice Teltser