



Minutes Bethlehem City Democratic Committee – June 13, 2022

Jeff McConnell advises that the meeting will be recorded.

Josh Shulman, Chair, introduces himself and the rest of the outgoing Executive Board: Ben Felzer, Male Vice Chair and Kate Wilgruber, Female Vice Chair, Jeff McConnell, Secretary and Mark Moss, Treasurer.

Welcome to the Monthly General Meeting and Reorganization Meeting.

MISC:

- 50/50 tickets sold in Back
- Only Elected Committee Members (PCPs or their proxies) may vote.
- Overarching role of BCDC is to get Democratic candidates in the city elected.
- Nominations for each position: Chair, Vice-Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer.
- Each candidate will have a few minutes to speak
- Josh nominates himself as Judge of elections, 2 other Tellers to count votes.
- No elected officials or candidates were present to speak.
- Minutes from the prior meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: Mark Moss.

- \$75 brought in as revenue in contributions.
- Paid Park Pavilion rental and deposit for upcoming picnic, as well as monthly space rental for a total of \$419.46 in expenses.
- Net is \$344.46 in expenses.
- \$1514.32 Bank Balance.
- An additional \$25 income in Petty Cash from the last meeting in 50/50 for a total of \$129.50 in Petty Cash.

Reports from Northampton and Lehigh Counties were not given as no one was present to give reports.

Old Business:

- Sunday, July 31st is the picnic at Bethlehem Township Community Park in Bethlehem Township by the Community Center at Farmersville Road...all the way in the back at the Pavillion. Ample parking.
 - Starts at 1pm (runs to 4pm).
 - Some description of what was served in the past, but the incoming executive board will decide what will be served.

New Business:

Welcome to new Committee Persons. What PCPs do, what BCDC does.

Election:

- Bylaws read, as detailed in Agenda. Instructions given. No Secret Ballots.
- Nominations:
- Ben Felzer nominates himself as Chairperson. 2nd given
 - Describes attributes of self and his ticket: Christian Ramos and Toni Fernandez as Vice Chairs, Johanna Brams as Secretary, Mark Moss as Treasurer.
- Jeff McConnell nominates himself as Chairperson. 2nd given
 - Describes attributes.
- After some discussion, the vote is taken by ballot.
 - Ben Felzer wins by 27 to 6.
- Ben nominates his slate, as detailed above. There are no opposing candidates. Hand votes are taken as confirmation as there are no provisions for write in candidates and the slate as detailed above is confirmed, position by position.
- New Executive Board:
 - Ben Felzer, Chairperson
 - Toni Fernandez, Female Chair
 - Christian Ramos, Male Chair
 - Johanna Brams, Secretary
 - Mark Moss, Treasurer

- Each new Board Member makes remarks. These include:
 - PCP training and support
 - Collaboration with other groups like LV4ALL and County Democrats
 - Outreach efforts, especially to Southside and other minority communities
 - Revitalize fundraising efforts for better candidate support
 - Democracy is in crisis—it is necessary to pull together and working to save it is what is important to do now.
 - Be as involved as we can; get others involved.
 - Focus and work together.
 - Lists to target, strategies. Voter Registration.

- Next meeting is July 11th and may be in a new location.
- Upcoming Events: Rose Garden event the following Saturday, June 18th

Members Forum:

- Don Ironside talks about efforts by Lehigh Valley Stands Up, including a Ballot Initiative with a petition to end Solitary Confinement; asks for help in circulating petitions and other efforts.
- Toni Fernandez mentioned the Puerto Rican parade in Allentown – should have a presence there.
- Michael Laws talks a bit about the State Committee. 6 Reps from NORCO. – Election: Sharif Street of Philadelphia won and is Chair. Peggy Grove is Vice Chair, Scott Conklin is Treasurer, Jen Diaz is Secretary
 - Some discussion of Counties who did not make reorganization deadline and therefore could not vote in that election.
- Cheryl Baker offers to help – lots of experience in organizing and GOTV. Offers to share information. Experience in fundraising.

- Meeting is adjourned. Next Meeting is July 11th. *Note: This was later announced to be in the Fowler building of Northampton Community College on the South Side.*

//submitted by Johanna Brams, Secretary