Minutes of the Davis Democratic Club Board Meeting

Tuesday September 1, 2020

Place: Meeting on ZOOM

Davis, CA 95616

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Stephen Souza

Quorum was 8 board members

Members Present: 13 board members were present at the beginning of the meeting.

President Stephen Souza

Vice President Rick Gonzales -

Treasurer Ameer Alsawaf

Recording Secretary G Richard Yamagata

Corresponding Secretary & Publicity Giles Giovinazzi

Membership Chair Saira Delgado

Newsletter Editor Carl Schmid

Past President Bob Bockwinkel

Board Members present: Jan Agee, Tom Dowling, Bob Marr, Jonathan Howard, and Linda Deos (arrived later)

Ex-Officio present: Bob Schelen

ATTENDANCE: These rules are not in effect during the COVID19 Pandemic

The by-laws state that an individual cannot miss 3 meetings in a row. It also states that a person cannot miss 3 meetings in a 5 meeting reporting period. This is to prevent members from showing up every other meeting or 50% of the time.

Board Members absent: Dillan Horton (on sabbattical), Alan Hirsch(on sabbattical)

Ex-Officio members absent: Jim Provenza and and Bill Julian, YCDP Davis College Dems – no attendance requirement

There were 4 guests present. They were Luba Schmid, Marie Bockwinkel, Bruce ???, and Dave Griffin

A quorum is 8 board members. A Quorum was present at the meeting with 15 board members attending at the end of this meeting.

AGENDA

The agenda was presented to the board by the President, Stephen Souza. Carl Schmid made the motion to approve the agenda as submitted with no changes. Bob Marr seconded the motion. The agenda was approved with no objection and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Stephen Souza openned public comment with the President's report.  The board subcommittee was charged with recommending on how $10,000 would be spent by the Club for various campaigns for the November election.  The following is the suggested breakdown of where the money is to go:

$10,000 available to the club should be spent as follows:  
  
$2,000 to the Biden  Campaign  
$2,000 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC)  
$2,000 to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee  
$2,000 for Stephen Souza, the DDC President to use at his discretion for sponsoring fundraisers (like the Verbs) and funding Bob Bockwinkel's letter writing campaign.    
$2,000 to the Yolo County Democratic Party

The above motion that the money be spent as listed above was made by Jonathan Howard and was seconded by Carl Schmid.  There were 13 votes aye and no nays.  The ayes were Souza, Howard, Schmid, Deos, Marr, Alsawaf, Bockwinkel, Giovinazzi, Delgado, Gonzales, Schelen, Julian, Yamagata   He held a e-mail vote, which passed 13 to 0.

Ameer has received the list, the addresses and the campaign ID numbers and he will write the checks and send them out.

The President thanked the subcommittee for their work in presenting the list to the board for the vote.

MINUTES

There are no minutes because they were long and complicated because of the discussion about endorsements.  The discussion made the meeting go over the predicted time by 55 minutes.

COLLEGE CAMPUS DEMS

The College Dems president, Aurora, was not able to make this meeting.

INDIVISIBLE YOLO

Linda Deos was not present and was stated to be at the Davis City Council meeting. She joined the meeting later on during this meeting.  This report was not given at this time.

YCDP REPORT

This report was given by Bob Schelen.  He reported that we do have a Yolo County Democratic Headquarters in Davis.  It is at 617 G Street in Davis, suite A1.  He reported that the headquarters has Biden/Harris campaign lawn signs at the headquarters.  Donation was $5.  The headquarters will open after Labor Day.  People will be there, so people can pick up lawn signs.  We will not be doing calling from the headquarters.  This will be done from homes.  Bob sent an article that talked about the headquarters and it was edited by Carl Schmid and made much better.  There are links to various Biden campaign activities.

Bob gave a report about the Yolo County Democratic Party endorsement subcommittee and reported the final endorsements.  He stated that Lucas Freirichs was the recipient of the YCDP endorsement for District 3 for the Davis City Council race and Dillan Horton for District 2.  He stated that for School board, the endorsed Davis candidates were Cecilia Escamelia Greenwald and two other names that were not confirmed at the meeting [Denning and Kelly Wilkinson, both names that I could not find as running for the school board seats Note by recording secretary].

Campaign committees will meet for the first time in September and will meet on a weekly basis.  They are look for volunteers and will be meeting on a weekly basis.

The YCDP will be doing a slate endorsement and a mailer and door hanger with the names that will be distributed for the November election.  These will be mailed the third Monday in September.

The YCDP will have a virtual Bean Feed event.  The YCDP thanked the DDC for its donation for funding the campaign headquarters.  The virtual Bean Feed will be a Zoom event.  There will be live streamed super special guests.

Carl Schmid asked about the $5 donation for campaign signs.  Janet Agee said that Biden is selling the signs on-line for $25.  Colusa County is selling the signs for $20 according to Giles.  Bob Schelen said that he did not mind increasing the cost to raise money.  Bob Schelen said that they will sell them for $15 to $20 or as much as a person can afford.

Bob Marr said that with the COVID crisis, people are strapped for money.  He wants to make sure that people that want to display signs but due to tight finances, they cannot afford $20 for a sign, that they are able to get a sign at the $5 price, if they really want to display a Biden sign and show their support.

Bob Schelen said that he agreed that the signs should be distributed from the headquarters at a price that people can afford.  It is up to the people at the headquarters as to what the price will be on signs.

Dave Griffin stated that his YCDP committee for the virtual Bean Feed will be reaching out to the Yolo County Democratic Clubs to have a prominent virtual presence at the event.

Bob Schelen thanked Dave Griffin for all of the work he is doing on the virtual Bean Feed.

Carl Schmid brought up that he had visited the YCDP web site and that campaign links and activities were not updated.  Bob Schelen promised to see that this was done.

Bob Bockwinkel stated that he had already sold a hundred dollars worth of campaign signs.

TREASURERS REPORT

Ameer Alsawaf gave a report on the funds in the club treasury. He e-mailed bank statements to the board for June and July. In August we received $1790 from checks and cash from members and 305 through Act Blue from the internet donations for a total of 2095 raised during the month of August. The club spent 649 on expenses, which included costs for PO Box, internet and other expenses including envelopes, paper and postage. The total amount in the treasury for August is $14628 in the Federal account and $363 in the State account for a total of $14,991 in the club treasury.

It was stated by President Souza that the club is in good shape financially, right now.

There was a discussion about financial matters that involved a request by the Winters Democratic Club and its treasurer Dick Holstock in regards to the DDC Federal Account.  This was not deemed appropriate to be discussed and was requested by the board to be dropped from the minutes.  The statement by President Souza to the Winters Club was that they need to get their own Federal ID to donate federal money to other campaigns.  If the Winters Club wants to donate money to the DDC for the DDC Federal Account, the DDC board will distribute the money as it sees fit.

There were no other questions about the treasurer's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

 COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD MEMBERS

No new members at this time, but Bob wants to nominate Dave Griffin for Board Membership.

Bob spoke about Dave Griffin that he has been working with the County Committee and that he is working with the county committee.

Giles spoke in support of Dave Griffin as a new board member.

MOTION/VOTE

Bob Bockwinkel nominate Dave Griffin to the board.  Giles Giovinazzi seconded the motion.  He was unanimously elected to the board with no oppositions and no abstaining votes.  The vote was 14 ayes and no nays.  All 14 board members voted.

At this point during the meeting, "Bruce" arrived.  He stated that he was attending this meeting as one of the newest members of the Davis Democratic Club.  He was attending just to figure out how to volunteer in Davis for the November Presidential election.

OTHER CLUB REPORTS

INDIVISIBLE YOLO

Linda Deos arrived at the meeting and gave a report on the latest from Indivisible Yolo.  They continue with their volunteer events, which include fundraising and phone calls.

LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN

Bob Bockwinkel gave the report about his letter writing campaign. He submitted a letter to the board which follows:

"**More than 50 Davis Democratic Club members and friends have participated in the Club's letterwriting campaign to targeted races.Currently, we are hand writing get-out-the-vote letters for Democrat Phil Arballo in the 22nd Congressional District against Republican incumbent Devin Nunes, for Democrat Brynne Kennedy in the 4th Congressional Districtrunning against Republican incumbent Tom McClintock, and for Democratic incumbent Josh Harder in the Congressional District 10 against Republican Ted D. Howze.  We now have an additional 1000 voter names to be sent letters.(To date, nearly 2,500 letters have been written.) New letter writers include Calvin Hardy, Bob Marr, Dan Gonzales, Pam Nieberg, Mary McCaffery, Sherilll Futrell, Rita Martin, Wilson Hong, John Mott-Smith, Joan Sallee, Ameer Alsawaf, Andre Ashford, Rick Gonzales, Giles Giovinazzi, Robin Kulakow, Bill Julian, Jolynn Shoemaker, Vinita Domier, Andrew Newman, George Bruening, Julia Whitmer and Susan Von Geldern.  You can make a differenceby doing this work in the safety and leisureof your own home.  The possibilities are open ended and limited only by the number of volunteers. We need your help!  If you wish to participate or have any questions, contact Bob Bockwinkel at 530-219-1896 or at email<bbockwinkellrn@gmail.com>**"

Membership

Saira received more donations and membership renewals from Act Blue rather than through checks mailed to the PO Box.  She said there were 6 new members through Act Blue.  Bob said that we have another 2 new members that he had signed up.

Ameer said that we need to continue to send letters to the people that have not paid, because they donate more than the minimum amount, according to his records.  Saira said that she has no records about these people.  Ameer and Stephen stated that we need to keep them on the list.

Bob Bockwinkel  stated that one of the renewals was Grant Noda.  He donated $200 to the club. .

Rick requested that Saira send him the phone numbers of the people that have not donated or paid membership from 2016.  He stated that he did this back in 2016 and he was successful in getting members to sign up.  Rick was able to raise $2000 in 2016 by calling people that had not donated money in the last 4 years (since 2012)

NEWSLETTER

Carl Schmid, editor of the DDC Newsletter, stated that the club and county web sites are out of date, because he has not received information to post.  The web sites need to be updated with new information that is submitted to the members.  Jan Agee stated that she was not being informed of what is happening.  She needs to be receiving updates.

There was a 15 minute discussion about information that needs to be disseminated to the pubic.

The next newsletter will have candidate statements from the candidates.  Board members should reach out to candidates to print a statement.

GENERAL MEETINGS

President Souza summed up the current situation that the club is in lockdown and we are not having public fundraiser gatherings. He stated that we should just keep on doing what we are doing.

The YCDP will the organization that will be having the public events.  The club is sponsoring these events and the club members are asked to participate and support these events.

ON GOING BUSINESS

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Giles stated that the club Facebook is active and the latest update is the newest web site.  Jan and Giles are supplying information for volunteer efforts to people that ask for such opportunities.  Giles stated that he raised $200 through Act Blue from one of the non-local visitors to the page.  He also stated that Francois reconnected Twitter with the Facebook account and he wanted to thank him for doing that.  Giles stated that he will continue to populate the club's social media pages with volunteer opportunities as he hears about them.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business from past meetings that has not been already discussed.

Saira said that she submitted a proposal for campaign endorsements by the Davis Democratic Club.  The process will only take place after the Central Committee makes its recommendations.

Richard Yamagata made a comment that we need to change the by-laws.  Lucas Frerichs is the chair of the committee.  Stephen wants to call the by-laws committee to meet after this election.

Saira wants the process to be made more public so people know what the process is.  Melissa Moreno came to the club and seeked the endorsement and decided not to seek the endorsement.  She felt that the club's endorsement process was not clear.

Carl Schmid stated that one way to address is this problem is to have a blanket endorsement policy of not endorsing candidates.

Saira asked Bob Schelen if the club is bound by the YCDP to endorse candidates that the YCDP endorses.  Bob first stated that this endorsement issue caused the last DDC meeting to go over its predicted time line by an hour, so it is a difficult issue to discuss.  Bob stated that as the YCDP's charter is written, the clubs have their own say in who they endorse.  He cited a couple of examples where the DDC Board endorsed differently than the YCDP.  Once case is where the DDC Board endorsed all Democrats running for Davis City Council, which was 5 candidates.  The YCDP only endorsed two candidates of the 5 candidates for 2 seats.  Another example was where the DDC endorsed a candidate for the California State Senate, which was different from both the California Democratic Party.  He also stated that there were free speech issues that stemmed from the clubs like the DDC being local free speech organizations.  [This was part of the defense used when the DDC was charged by the FPPC for non-compliance with campaign reporting rules.]  In recent years, Stephen has taken the position that the club does not endorse.

 Stephen stated that the board does have rules that are in the by-laws.  That is a discussion that needs to be done in a sub committee.  She would like club to have a policy in place by 2022.

KUDOS

Carl Schmid gave kudos to all that contributed articles to the newsletter, that includes Bob Schelen, Bill Julian, Bob and Marie Bockwinkel, and Linda Deos.

Bob Schelen gave kudos to Stephen Souza for being a great Zoom meeting leader and for all of the work he did on distributing money to the candidate campaigns, kudos to Bob Bockwinkel for his work on the letter writing campaign, kudos to Saira for working on the campaign endorsement draft for the by-laws, and kudos to Dave for making the web site better and for working on the YCDP Bean Feed event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No other announcements were made at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

We will continue to meet using ZOOM, the first Tuesday of each month until the October Meeting. Hopefully by November there will be a vaccine and we can start once again meeting in person at the library. The next meeting is October 6.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Linda Deos made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Carl Schmid. The board voted to adjourn with no objections. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by G Richard Yamagata September 6, 2020.