

Oak Park/Huntington Woods/Royal Oak Twnshp
Democratic Club
February 18th 2021
Zoom Meeting

Called to order 7pm

Recap of New Board Elections

- Mary Ann Fontana: Chair
- Bree Stoker: Vice Chair
- Max Milstein: Vice Chair
- Andrew Cissell: Treasurer
- Shaun Whitehead: Communications Officer
- Laura Rock: Secretary
- Manjula Egan: Trustee
- Zakiya Hollifield: Trustee
- Madeline Shipp: Trustee

Mary Ann Starts at 7:06 with announcements

OCDP Executive Committee Designees

- Wanda Anderson
- Sharon Baseman
- Nina Abrams
- Max Milstein
- Al Alvin
- Rachel Carp

Mary Ann turns it over to Andrew Cissell for the Treasurer's report

Treasurer Cissell starts by giving a report of balances

- Soft money account: \$494
- Hard money savings account:\$979.83
- Hard money checking account: \$2,271.82

Andrew Cissell: Reminder to everyone to pay your dues.

Act Blue link is the safest and easiest way to donate.

\$10 minimum dues requirement. You can use Act Blue, or

If you prefer, cash or check. Reach out to Andrew directly to see if you have paid and are up to date on your dues. Go to our website to get that information.

Mary Ann has returned to speak on the next order of business

Updates on our new website.

Special thanks to Shaun Whitehead, Sharon Baseman, Regina Weiss, and Yolanda Charles.

We have tremendous updates to our website.

Including: Donate button, and Join Us button that will go directly to club email

- New Committees. Sign up for whatever you can. We will be posting the monthly minutes for all our members to see.

Chair Mary Ann Fontana turns communication reports over to Councilman Shaun Whitehead:

- Beginning with the 10 things that the team has put together so far.

- Special thanks to the communication team.

- Consisting of: State Rep: Regina Weiss

 - Commissioner: Yolanda Smith Charles

 - Board member: Sharon Baseman

 - Vice Chair: Bree Stocker

- Top 10 things communication team has done with the website so far this past month

1. New Banner and Cover Photo

2. Internal Google to do list

3. Updated our contact information

4. New monthly message from our chair.

5. New Logo

6. New eboard list

7. Volunteer list easy to access

8. Join us list easier to access

9. Facebook hyper link, making it easier link to facebook

10. Updating minutes and the new bylaws

Councilman Whitehead suggests:

Should we be posting Zoom link on Facebook, considering the possibility for Zoom Bombs?

Also, two last things as communications chair

- Sending out special invites

- Working on Facebook

Chair Fontana suggests we have registration for the Zoom link so we can avoid the Zoom Bombs and keep our meetings safe.

Committee reports.

Laurie Lisi Precinct Delegate Liaison and Precinct Delegate committee chair and Endorsement committee.

Precinct Delegate committee includes

- Doris Alexander

- Glenda Steinback

- Laura Rock

- Gabe Dodson

- Wendy Appleton

- Nina Abrams

-Laurie Lisi

We welcome anyone who is interested to join us, particularly in Royal Oak Township. Focus for this upcoming year is to get more involvement for Precinct Delegates. Laura Rock hand delivered over 70 Letters. Laurie Lisi typed up and addressed them all.

We were successful in delivering letters, sending out emails, and calling over 300 people to get more engagement. Thank you to everyone who is joining us for the first time.

Working on events for the month of March and April. To be announced at the next Dem Club meeting.

Write the Club if you are interested in joining a committee or volunteer.

Chair Fontana addresses everyone to talk about the future of community service, living our values. Will follow up with Gabe Dodson in good and well fair with more information later on in the meeting.

Moving to OCDP

Sharon Baseman reports about the meeting that went on 4 hours. New committees were approved.

Wanda Anderson reports on the development of the youth committee.

-Caprice Jackson: Youth Committee 14th congressional district

-Mikal Goodman: OCDP Diversity and Inclusion chair

Talking about DNC Saturday February 20th starting at 9am
Need to be registered.

Mary Ann moving to elected official reports

-Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence. Survival. Anger, Terror, Hope.

Voting next week on Covid Relief Package. Black History Month

-Never forget who we are and the history of where we came.

-Working towards a perfect union

-State Senator Jeremy Moss. Mike Shirkey. Terrible dysfunction based on his leadership

-The Chamber has been hijacked. Senator Moss will work towards reclaiming the gavel

-Donations at votejeremymoss.com \$10 donation would be helpful.

-New lines drawn, means hope for flipping seats.

-Virtual coffee hour politics with State Senator Jeremy Moss, State Rep Regina Weiss & Congressman Andy Levin. Wednesday February 24th 5pm. Find event on Senator

Moss's Facebook page.

State Rep. Regina Weiss:

-We need to flip the house and the senate in Michigan.

-We need to lay the groundwork now

- We need more voter turnout
- Protected the Elected Dems and get more Dems elected
- Meeting with Commissioner Charlie Cavell to reach out to more Dem clubs
- Book drive in the 27th district. Details to come.

County Commission Yolanda Smith Charles:

- Press release from Road commission. Hiring 30 seasonal laborers \$12.25. Position lasting about 10 to 12 weeks.
- Executives office news about Heath Department administering nearly all of their Covid vaccine doses.
New health division will be able to help distribute when they are available.
- County launched a video presentation of the Covid information.
- Also voted and approved appointing Leann Stafford Director of Health and Human Services Department.
- Oakland County Commissioner Winter Fundraiser to keep the majority. March 3rd.

County Commission Charlie Cavell:

- Virtual Town Hall Wednesday February 24th at 4:58pm.
- \$3 to help out the Commission
- Covid: 60 million dollars into the county to help distribute the vaccine. Making it more equitable and helping small businesses survive. Money should be distributed by the beginning of March.
- Criminal Justice Reform. The Commissioner team is starting to talk about Mental Health Courts in the 45th district. Great leadership to expand, from Oak Park Court
- Sustainability office. Ending cash bail.
- Housing organization. Anti Section 8 discrimination ordinance.
- Working with Smart to get free bus passes to homeless people and aging population.
- Health Department and AAA conversations about how to help homebound residents.

Mayor Marian McClellan:

- Covid. St Joes in Pontiac giving vaccines to people who do not have to be a patient. Oakland County Save Your Spot, and Meijer.
- Living your values. WXYZ community spot light to Marilyn Mack Pilchowski for giving out free loaves of bread. Sell one give one campaign. Sweet Bird Kitchen on Facebook. Order there and it comes a week later. Oak Park Social open for carry out.
- Alex Bouche. Oak Park resident. Owner of Oak Park Social.
- Forgotten Harvest is distributing meals on Wednesday from 9am to 12 noon.
No touch drive thru. Helping 700 families each week.
- Shout out to Kroger who in partnership with Forgotten Harvest, delivered 6,000 holiday meals to those in our community who needed some holiday cheer.

Guest Speaker Professor Kevin Deegan Krause

Topics:

- Gerrymandering

- Rank Choice Voting
- Ghost Candidates

Resources:

<http://rankmivote.org>

Voters not politicians

Good and Welfare:

Sharon Baseman

Annual Fems for Dems kick-off with the Governor. Find out through Facebook.

Gabe Dodson and Laura Rock

- Community Service program. Will be up and running within the month
- Will need to partner with businesses and individuals for donations
- We want programs to help our own cities.

Gabe Dodson. Good and Welfare announcement

-Attorney General Dana Nessel's expungement fairs this summer. Get on Dana Nessel's email list. Anyone can get trained.

Mary Ann:

- Next month's speakers
- Judge Karen McDonald and Judge Jaimie Powell Horowitz.

Charlie Cavell:

- Every Saturday 10 am Zoom Meeting
- Aging
- criminal justice
- infrastructure
- sustainability
- inclusivity
- housing

First time visitors

- Ryan from Berkely
- Natalie Price from Berkely

8 City meetings every month

Natalie Price Councilwomen from Berkely

- Socra does not accept hard copy books
- Dumpster for recycled hardcovered books at Berkley Library

Robin Smith United Precinct Delegates.

- Contact Tashawna Gill

- Women's caucus

Al Elvin Oak Park School Board

- Approved return to school plan. Students back in April. Not 100%

- Approved language for bond issue, taking place in May. Will not raise taxes.

Conclusion of meeting.

Ended at 8:55 pm