



Oak Park-Huntington Woods- Royal Oak Township Meeting Agenda May 19, 2022, 7 p.m.

- I. **Welcome: Mary Ann Fontana** began the meeting at 7:00 pm with a warm welcome to members, new and continuing. She also encouraged more to join the Club.
- II. **Treasurer's Report: Andrew Cissell** encouraged folks to pay their dues. Status of finances: \$613.14 (soft money checking account); \$2941.41 (hard money checking account); \$0 (soft money savings account); \$982.51 (hard money savings account)
- III. **Brigette Hall** is the President of Friends of Royal Oak Township (FOROT). She spoke about the history of the Charter Township of Royal Oak and the purpose of the FOROT project. FOROT was founded in 2010. It promotes community advocacy through a variety of ongoing projects (the four pillars): health and wellness; community engagement; cultural enrichment; historical preservation. FOROT is intergenerational, consists of focus groups to determine needs, engages in partnerships with other orgs, and takes pride in all its programs to benefit the Township. People should get involved. One special program is Truth Toward Reconciliation (TTR), which works on anti-racism, helps African Americans to feel ever more comfortable in the community. It is also a history program that raises up African American history, life in the community, and contributions to the community.
- IV. **Abby Rubley**, Communications Director of the MDP, spoke at length about Democratic messaging. Dem messages need to be uplifted and spread across MI and the US. What will get Michiganders to vote? Turnout/getting out the vote is key. Democracy must win in 2022 in order to have it in 2024. Flipping the MI Senate and the MI House is the goal as well as electing Dems across the state and in Lansing. Key issues are crime, the roads, abortion, and inflation. It's also important to elect Dems to the MI SC. Dems need to work together at all levels to bring us wins in November 2022. MI is a battleground state, acknowledged nationwide.
- V. **Committee Reports: Laurie Lisi** said that the PD meeting in Shepherd Park was excellent with over 30 in attendance; a total of three candidate forums will provide opportunities for folks to hear candidates speak (go to website for info: OPHWDEMS.org); **Glenda Stainback** spoke on behalf of **Donald Jones**, who chairs the Community Service Committee: volunteers are needed for various projects and programs planned
- VI. **Elected Officials Reports:** We had nine reports by electeds about the state of their work.

**Regina Weiss** said that there is a lot going on in Lansing regarding the appropriations process. There appears to be \$10B in surplus to spend this coming year. Dems and Repubs are at odds with regard to how the money should be spent. Dems want, above all, tax relief and stimulus relief for MI citizens. Repubs do not favor those who need the money most. Fiscal responsibility overall is key.

**Charlie Cavell** is committed to building thriving communities—strong businesses, healthy citizens, happy people. Sharing info with as many people as possible and across orgs as to how to do this is key.

**Yolanda Charles** is working on best ways for 50+ folks to get boosters, making the environment safe and secure, improving employment at all levels, and beautifying OP parks. Dems need to be reminded that they are the ones doing this kind of work, and this message needs to go to voters.

**Marion McClellan** reported on numerous projects happening in OP to beautify and improve the city: parks, art installations, corridor improvement, and flower sales. Creative ideas for future projects are welcome.

**Shaun Whitehead** spoke about the superintendent of OP schools: a new superintendent of OP schools will be appointed soon (final interviews are in progress). Shaun thanked the Club for the \$500 donation for prizes for the essay contest for students. The topic: why is diversity important in our community? A celebration will take place on June 18 in Shepherd Park for Juneteenth: essay contest prizes will be announced, electeds will speak; there will be food and beverages.

**Tom Franco** is the OP Election Local Lead who needs a replacement for his role in the primary on August 2 as he will be out of town. It is a non-partisan role. He goes from election site to election site to make sure that all is going well.

**Natalie Price** is running for State House (District #5) and welcomes support.

**Tuhin (representing Haley Stevens)** said that Stevens is working on issues benefitting the district and needs volunteers to assist.

**Danielle C. Hall** is running for State House (District #6) on the platform of educational infrastructure and human services

VII. **Good and Welfare:** **Mary Ann** urged us all to sign petitions and to ask neighbors and other friends to do so. She adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.