



## Oak Park-Huntington Woods- Royal Oak Township Meeting

Minutes for January 19, 2023; 31 in person and 5 on the Zoom

- I. **Welcome New Members: Mary Ann Fontana** welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm. A few new members introduced themselves.
- II. **Treasurer's Report: Andrew Cissell** gave a summary of the total funds collected in 2022 (\$10,325.51) and the total expenditures (\$12,322.05). After Andrew's Treasurer's report, **Mary Ann** enumerated the large expenditures in 2022. Among them were door hangers, annual picnic, the gift for Brenda Lawrence, the donation to the OP Juneteenth celebration, our holiday party, the coalition dinner, and the OC fundraiser. About \$10K. The rest of the money spent was for Zoom, the website, and rentals. So, we started with \$2983.79 in 2022 and ended 2022 with \$987.25 because the expenditures exceeded the revenues.
- III. **The election of our 2023-2024 Executive Board for Club Officers and our Oakland County Democratic Party Executive Committee Designees. Nina Abrams**, Chair of the Nominating Committee, conducted the election. She asked if there were other nominations; there were none. It was moved and seconded that we accept the slate. The slate (*listed after these Minutes*) was approved unanimously.

**Mary Ann Fontana** thanked several people for their special help during the last two years that she has been Chair.

**Glenda Stainback**, the incoming Chair, then started chairing the meeting and thanked Mary Ann for all her excellent work moving us forward during these last two years.

- IV. **Explanation of our committees** and sign-up forms were circulated. Many signed up for committees. More members are encouraged to sign up. *Committees and their descriptions are listed after these Minutes.*

Barry Lepler, who is chairing the Program Committee, announced that the first meeting will be at his home, 13159 Nadine in Huntington Woods., on February 5, at 3 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend and participate in the work of this committee.

- V. **Elected Officials reports**, and all elected officials responded to the Q/A after their presentations on topics such as gun laws, gun control, tax cuts, revenue sharing, and moving the MI primary from March to February.

**Rep. Haley Stevens** was supposed to attend this evening but could not. She wants to attend a meeting in the future.

**State Rep. Jason Hoskins** indicated that he and others in Lansing (including those present this evening) are busy getting their offices set up, getting onto several committees of their interest, and overall hitting the ground running with a variety of bills that he and others want to introduce. Among them are the expansion of the Civil Rights Act, repeal of Right to Work, removal of the draconian abortion law, and repeal of the retirement tax.

**State Rep. Natalie Price** has participated in the introduction of six bills so far and will serve on the Appropriations Committee; her focus will be on school and higher ed, health and human services, capital outlay, and tax policies.

**State Rep. Helena Scott** will chair the Energy Committee and is interested in regulatory reform and licensing, insurance and financial services, higher ed, economic and small business concerns, and housing.

**State Rep. Regina Weiss** is focused on judiciary, higher ed, environment, and energy. She is Chair of the K-12 Department of Ed Committee. She is the Campaign Chair for the House.

**OC Commissioner Yolanda Charles:** She is now Chair of Economic Development and Growth. She is deeply engaged to make sure that the county works hard to keep us safe and sound. She has worked on the veterans' program as well.

**OC Commissioner Charlie Cavell** believes that the 13/6 majority will help to move projects forward that will serve people well. He is interested in lowering bills, providing safe, economical housing, and making water affordable, especially for seniors. He talked about senior centers becoming more viable and usable in the communities.

**Mayor of OP Marian McClellan** announced that OP received a school violence grant to hire a school resource officer. She also mentioned a push to lower DTE rates by using electricity at off-peak hours. Mayor McClellan also mentioned that a volunteer program is afoot to help young people learn to serve their community, and there is a fenced, landscaped dog park in the works. Mark Phillips, of OP, is donating a mural by artist Joey Salomon in memory of Mark's son.

**Shaun Whitehead** indicated that there is a 9-month study being done on OP parks and recreation; there will be a new recreation center in 2026. Shaun also mentioned the upcoming January 29 Winterfest, and organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Juneteenth celebration, for which help is need.

**Judge Jamie Horowitz** is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 6-year term. She is proud that there is a mental health court and fully funded treatment courts.

**Al Elvin, President, Oak Park School Board** congratulated all new state reps and others who have just been elected. He mentioned a horrible incident that occurred recently: a robbery attempt in front of the high school that included the shooting of a young man. He is recovering, but school safety has to be a very high priority.

## **VI. Good and Welfare**

**Glenda Stainback** mentioned three important dates: January 28 (11<sup>th</sup> district convention); February 16 (next Club meeting); February 22 (veterans' event). Check for more information on the website as the dates near. Glenda adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

### **Oak Park-Huntington Woods-Royal Oak Township Democratic Club 2023-2024 Slate of Officers and Executive Board**

Chair – Glenda Stainback

Vice Chair (HW) – Mary Ann Fontana

Vice Chair (OP) – Andrew Cissell

Secretary – Roz Schindler

Treasurer – Nina Abrams

Communications – Laurie Lisi

Huntington Woods Trustee – Rachel Karp Oak Park Trustee – Zakiya Hollifield

Royal Oak Township Trustee – Felicia Royal

#### **OCDP Executive Committee Designees:**

Wanda Anderson (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair of OCDP)

Sharon Baseman

Mary Ann Fontana

Cheryl Green

Loren Hollander

Kimberly Reaves

#### **COMMITTEES:**

1) **Bylaws Committee** – changes to the bylaws

- 2) **Membership/Social/Fundraising Committee** – recruiting new members and resources to run the Club. Calling Club members monthly about our meetings.
- 3) **Voter Mobilization Committee** – training volunteers and Precinct Delegates on the importance of voting and ultimately working to increase voter turnout in our cities.
- 4) **Communications Committee** – send messages and notices to our members about meetings and club events through our website, Facebook page and mass email program.
- 5) **Program Committee** – work with the Chair to plan regular membership meetings and any special issue meetings.
- 6) **Finance and Strategic Planning Committee** – along with the Officers propose long-range plans for future years Club activities.
- 7) **Community Service Committee** – search for opportunities and projects to assist needs within our communities, and gather volunteers to work on these projects.