

Minutes

July 20, 2021, Birmingham Bloomfield Democratic Club at Beverly Park

Call to Order / Roll Call of Officers

Debbie Rosenman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

She introduced officers of the club and greeted new participants. Officers present: Debbie Rosenman (Chair), Evan Brook (Vice Chair); Gail Whitty (Treasurer); Charles Gaba (Corresponding Secretary); and Corinne Shoop (Trustee) Not able to attend: Nicole Bedi (Trustee) and Andrew Corey (Recording Secretary)

Report of the Chair:

Welcome to our first in-person gathering in 16 months. How great to be together on this summer evening!

Nationally, we are still watching to see how the U.S. Senate does with eliminating the filibuster so they can pass SR1 the Voting Rights Act along with the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan. It is great that the Child Tax credits are finally arriving to help our working families. What a difference it is living in Biden's America!

As far as the state legislature, we can celebrate many accomplishments, particularly with the budget bills that passed. Governor Whitmer signed a "historic" \$17.1 billion public education budget that completely closes a decades-long state funding gap between school districts -- all without raising taxes. You must have heard about the report which came out of the Senate Oversight Committee that confirmed that our 2020 elections were free from fraud, while the Republicans remain fixated on the Big Lie, pursuing sham audits and pushing out anyone that stands in their way -- like Jason Roe who resigned last week as executive director of MIGOP. We must continue to stay vigilant with their plans to suppress the vote and impede the integrity of our elections. We will continue to keep you informed of any actions we will need to take.

Treasurer's Report: Gail Whitty reported that there is \$X in the club's account.

Precinct Delegate Committee Report

Allen Wolf is out of town tonight so I will give the report. We are still recruiting precinct delegates and precinct volunteers. We currently have 22 more slots to fill.

If you are not a precinct delegate yet, please consider joining the team. If you ARE a precinct delegate and have not yet received your new button, please see me so I can give it to you to wear proudly.

For all precinct delegates, new and returning, we have blank affidavits here tonight that you can fill out and get notarized on site to be ready for the 2022 election.

DPDOC, the Democratic Precinct Delegates of Oakland County is holding another training next week for new precinct delegates or returning PDs who never attended a training before. It is online next Monday, July 26th and I have flyers for those who may be interested.

PDs and volunteers who live in Andy Levin's district (Bloomfield and Southfield Townships) can still drop door hangers and should contact Allen or I if you are interested. Those PDs and volunteers who live in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills will also have a canvassing opportunity coming soon to drop literature about the voter suppression bills. Look for information coming out soon.

Membership Committee Report

Evan Brook encouraged everyone to join and to invite others to come to our meetings as well.

Oakland County Democratic Party (OCDP) No report

The OCDP is holding a Summer Picnic, open to all, at Drake Park at 6801 Drake Road in West Bloomfield on August 21 from 12-4.

Postcard and Letter Writing Committee-Emerly Pence encouraged people to join the committee and even pick up packs of postcards tonight. Current campaigns: VA and NJ

New Business

Guest Speaker – State Senator Mallory McMorrow

Electric Vehicles (EV) and their infrastructure is a signature issue in the state as well at the national level. It is a rare issue that aligns something that is right for the environment to also be right for the economy. When she took office, Sen. McMorrow wanted to be sure to treat this topic thoughtfully, so she gathered a bipartisan group of legislators in both the House and Senate and took 6 months to write the four-bill package. They made sure to get the support of the auto makers and environmental groups. Passing these bills would have made Michigan the first in the nation to have the infrastructure in place. After introducing and promoting the bills, they have not yet come up for a hearing. The Republicans want to block Sen. McMorrow from passing any bills because they are targeting her seat for the 2020 election.

The co-sponsors are now working with the governor's office to move the legislation again this term with more optimism as they will already have the backing of the governor, industry lobbyists and other Republicans. People are realizing they must act because they are losing ground every day. Since the first bill package was introduced, new electric vehicles have been brought on the market and many automakers are moving toward fully electric. That is why we need the infrastructure to support the industry. One bill is to provide incentives for small

businesses to install Level 2 chargers in places where people are already spending time so cars can be charged while they are in restaurants or shopping. Another bill would help our state tourism by allowing all the state parks install chargers where the revenue from their use would go back into the state park system. She also spoke about the possibility of using federal dollars coming into the state to help industry, which would include support for EV. She also spoke about making it easier to buy EV in the state.

The senator spoke about how Andy Levin is one of the legislators also working on EV infrastructure bills at the federal level. She addressed the question about how the Electric Grid will be able to handle the extra demand. Thinking about where to put the chargers as well as increasing the cap of residential solar panels to make the grid more resilient. People will also be educated to charge their vehicles in off-peak hours. She talked about the crowd-sourced app, Charge Point, to notify others where chargers are located. She also addressed the issue of supporting the purchase of electric school busses. The state agency EAGLE is piloting the use of electric busses and the possible use of energy transfer. There are health benefits by eliminating exhaust around children too.

The senator ended by emphasizing the importance of flipping the House and Senate to move forward on these issues. We must also reelect Governor Whitmer.

Good and Welfare

Next Meeting Next month we will meet on Tuesday, August 17th at the Bloomfield Township Hall at 7:00. In fact, we have scheduled that location on Telegraph Road, south of Long Lake for the rest of this year. Our speaker will be Erica Peresman, the MDP Voter Protection team leader, who will speak about the status of the voter suppression bills and what we can do to protect our vote.

Adjourn Debbie Rosenman made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

List of Those Present:

Rich* and Alex Apkarian*, Howard Baron, Connie Zorn*, Maureen Field*, Diane Brody and Todd Schafer*, Cynthia Shaw, Kay* and Harvey Bell*, Erica Peresman* and David Jaffe*, Mike Whitty, Margaret Brooks, Emery and Linda Pence*, Ryan Olds*, Nessa Feller, Joan Ritter*, Prashanth Balusu, Maria Marcotte, Rhonda Rhodes-Grant, Larry and Susan Lipton. Lisa Peers, Elin Netanzo*, Linda Zlotoff, Martin and Cathleen Brook, Cheri Horrigan-Happy and Bob Happy

Potential first-time attendees noted with * (13)

Duly submitted

Debbie Rosenman, Club Chair