

Minutes

March 16, 2021

Birmingham Bloomfield Democratic Club

Call to Order / Roll Call of Officers

Debbie Rosenman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

She introduced officers of the club and greeted new participants. Officers present: Evan Brook (Vice Chair); Gail Whitty (Treasurer); Charles Gaba (Corresponding Secretary); Corinne Shoop (Trustee); and Tom Russell (Recording Secretary). Nicole Bedi (Trustee) was not able to be present.

The agenda was shared online via Zoom and Charles Gaba made a motion to approve with a second from Allen Wolf. The agenda was approved.

The minutes from the previous meeting had been circulated and posted on our web page. Evan made a motion to approve, seconded by Charles. The minutes were approved.

A list of those present is at the end of this report.

Report of the Chair:

Debbie Rosenman provided her report:

“Thanks to everyone who joined us tonight. We want to see the involvement of the Dems in our area growing each and every month. There are several ways to get more involved.

1. Come to our monthly meetings. We are arranging to have speakers talking on meaningful topics. Next month, on April 13th, we will have Mark Brewer talking about the process and the progress of the Statewide Redistricting Commission. We will also have folks from Michigan Liberation speaking on the Black Mother’s Day Bailout and the school to prison pipeline. You will want to be here to hear them!
2. Become a member by clicking on the Membership tab on our website at bbdems.org.
3. Indicate your interest in being part of one of our committees. The form to sign up is at the Committees tab on the same website at bbdems.org.
4. Consider signing up to be precinct delegate by contacting Allen Wolf at allenwolf@yahoo.com.

This is the time when we need to organize and activate to get ready for upcoming elections. The more we do now to get people on board, the better our position will be to move into action when that time comes.

By now, many of you may have already seen the stimulus checks hit your bank accounts. They are coming soon. What a testimony to the work we did this last election cycle to see the action that has already taken place at the national level in just 55 days since President Biden took office. Stay informed as we hope to see more important legislation coming through.

It is so great to have our State Senator Rosemary Bayer here tonight to give us all an update on what is happening in the State Legislature and with the budget. She will have lots to say to keep us informed.

Before she even speaks tonight, I want to make sure everyone knows our club is sponsoring a zoom fundraiser for Senator Bayer on Friday, March 26th. Knowing that the opposition will be organizing in a big way to flip her seat to red, it is imperative that she have a successful fundraising campaign right now. It will show the Republicans that we mean to preserve her seat and return her to the State Senate. If you can come on March 26th, we are sure to have fun. If not, please consider donating anyway. See the link to register or donate on our website at bbdems.org.

Next month, our BBDems meeting will be on April 20th. I apologize for making the mistake of saying it was for a week earlier on the previous announcement. We always meet the third Tuesday of the month so next month on April 20th, we will host Mark Brewer, who will explain what is happening with the Independent Redistricting Commission as they draw up new districts for our congressional, state senate and state house seats. We also will be hosting speakers from Michigan Liberation who will talk about the Black Mother's Day Bailout program and the school to prison pipeline. We hope you come back to join us!"

Treasurer's Report

Gail Whitty reported that there is \$X in the club's account. There are 136 paid members as of January 1, 2021.

Precinct Delegate Committee Report

Allen Wolf, Co-precinct delegate liaison, gave his report and said that the goal of the committee is to fill all precinct delegate slots for the next election. At the moment, there are 60 open positions. On Thursday, March 18, there will be a BBDems PD committee meeting.

Membership

In addition to the 136 paid members already mentioned, Evan said that we have 1,350 names on our contact list. Our goal is to turn these contacts into members.

Oakland County Democratic Party (OCDP)

Kelly Dillaha reported on the OCDP meeting on March 9. U.S. Representative Brenda Lawrence (D-MI) spoke to the OCDP meeting and our own Nicole Bedi was elected to the Executive Committee representing BBDems. There were also By-law changes.

New Business

First Guest Speaker

State Senator Rosemary Bayer (District 12) spoke to the group and gave a detailed presentation on her work in Lansing. She serves on 5 committees, including Education and Environment. She is also working on Budget issues, broadband access, internet privacy, and legislation to stop landlords from evicting low-income people. She also spoke briefly about redistricting and vaccinations.

Second Guest Speaker

Professor Kevin Deegan-Krause of Wayne State University spoke on the topic “What is Ranked Choice Voting and Why is it Coming to Michigan?” The slides from his presentation are available on our website. Please also refer to their website: rankMIvote.org and sign up for their monthly newsletter. Maine, Alaska, and multiple cities and counties already have ranked choice voting. Questions can be referred to Jason.Nolan@rankmivote.com

Good and Welfare

- *Don’t forget the fundraiser for Rosemary Bayer on March 26.
- *Charles spoke about developments in the American Rescue Plan and how it related to the Affordable Care Act.
- *Check out our website!

Next Meeting

We will meet again on Tuesday, April 20 (Third Tuesday) at 7 PM.

Adjourn

Kelly Dillaha made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Corrine Shoop. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

List of Those Present:

Allen Wolf	Prashanth Balusu
Kelly Dillaha	Miriam Imerman
Diane Anderson	Baba Baxter Jones
Barbara Borden	Peter Dolan
Jason Nolan (from Rank MI Vote)	Patricia Hammer
Nessa Feller	Claudia Sills
Lisa Peers	Renita James
Larry Lipton	Elizabeth Dawe
Tom Allen	Doug Mallory
Patricia Paul	Diane Brody
Cherie Happy	Linda Zlotoff
Sandy Hansell	Matthew Kent

Duly submitted,
Thomas Russell, Recording Secretary