

BCDP

June 11, 2020

Minutes from Monthly Meeting via Zoom

Chair Tom Sapp called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Tom put forth changes to the agenda, adding Stephanie W. Pigues from Gov. Roy Cooper's office and Sara Knotts from the Board of elections as guest speakers. Tom led the Pledge Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Stephanie W. Pigues, email address spigues@roycooper.com, said that she will work on getting us signs and bumper stickers which are on back order now.

Sara Knotts from the Board of Elections addressed absentee voting. There is new legislation heading to the governor's office for signing. Any voter can request an absentee ballot – no reason needed. The application can be delivered in person or by mail or by the voter's relative. If errors occur on the app, the voter will be notified.

Anyone can distribute the apps, but they must be given without any information being filled out. Ballots will be mailed out starting Sept. 4, 2020. Right now, the apps must have 2 witnesses and must be notarized. HB 1169 will change that to 1 witness for 2020. Requests must be made by Oct. 27, 2020, and the ballots must be received by mail by Nov. 3 or hand delivered by 5:00 PM Nov. 2, 2020. Sara's email address is available on the website. A question was posed regarding learning if the ballot is received. Sara suggested looking on the website, especially if there is a bar code on the ballot.

Multiple absentee applications can be submitted in the same envelope. Handouts are capped at 100 to send out to precinct members. If one requests and receives an absentee ballot, then changes one's mind, one does not have to submit it. Voting in person is then allowed. A question was asked about what has been done to help with the influx of apps and ballots. Temporary workers have been brought in. Another question regarding whether we are permitted to provide envelopes with the applications; the answer is yes. They must be postmarked on time by the applicant.

Sara stated that the BoE needs pole workers; training will take place in June and July. Election day is a LONG day. Bob Bannerman mentioned that envelopes and stamps can be offered for applications, but ballots must be returned in the envelope provided with a bar code on it.

Tom thanked Sara for her time and information!

Candidate Bill Flythe addressed the group. He was asked by Bill Strock if the position he is seeking is a county wide position; if so, are you assigned a district? Bill answered that he lives in District 3, and all county residents can vote for him.

Marcia Morgan spoke next. She explained that there is no incumbent now which helps Cooper. The Party needs Brunswick County as there are two candidates since the County was split into two Districts – 19 and 17.

When Tom Simmons addressed the group, he thanked the Communications Committee for help with his website. He mentioned his letter to the editor admonishing Frank Iler.

Minutes from the March 11, 2020, meeting were moved for approval by Lisa Mosca and seconded by Joanne Levitan. Motion passed.

Dwight Willis, treasurer, gave the financial report. He thanked all contributors through Act Blue. Since SOBAD Golf tournament has been canceled this year, Dwight suggests stepping up contributions to cover the lack of the usual \$8000 from the tournament. Anyone can go to the BCDP website

(www.brunswickdem.org) and can make a onetime donation or a recurring donation through Act Blue. Contributions can also be mailed to BCDP, PO Box 503, Supply, NC 28462 or to Dwight Willis, 140 Carolina Ave., Holden Beach, NC 28462. He said he received a \$400 contribution that will show up in the June financial report. Expenditures have been limited this month. A Wind and Hail insurance payment will be made in June. We need lots more in our Victory Fund before Aug. 1. The Quilt Raffle has raised \$535 so far and is ongoing. SOBAD 50/50 raffle for \$20 tickets is still out there. If anyone wants a copy of the financial report, please email Dwight [dwightwillis1952@gmail.com](mailto:dwrightwillis1952@gmail.com)

Bob Bannerman reported on the Legislative Action Committee regarding the Absentee Ballot Bill that Sara Knotts addressed. We didn't get everything we wanted, but we must take advantage of it.

Arthur Hill spoke regarding the Communications Committee. They have upgraded the website. He thanked Melissa Warren for her help. He asks that we all look at the BLOG and at Facebook; it is getting an upgrade. He thanked Joanne Levitan for her help. The newsletter goes out to all; we must keep our lists current. Please renew or update. We were urged to check out Zoom meetings with candidates to see where we can help. Jeff Zalles is working on memes to use in campaigns. We are encouraged to write letters to the editor like Tom Simmons did. Arthur advised sending articles and letters to local papers and even to Charlotte and Raleigh.

Tom Sapp showed the brochure that we will be mailing out and distributing soon done by Jeff Zalles and the Communications Committee. We may enclose a sample ballot.

President's Report – There were 84 delegates to the State Convention. All resolutions were passed as was the party platform. We have 2 delegates for the Democratic Convention – Dwight Willis and Bill Flythe.

At the June 4, 2020, Executive Committee meeting, Paula Clarity was elected as 3rd Vice Chair.

We have new volunteer Coordinator in Bill McHugh. He is working with the Virtual Phone Bank which can be done at home. It seems to be working well.

Lisa Mosca spoke about our Voter Contact Process. Each month, a new voter list is sent to Lisa who distributes it to Eileen Farrell and Paula Clarity. They work with three groups to make an initial contact. That list is then sent to Precincts to make a second contact, i.e. newsletter, meeting. April's list will be sent out soon.

Rob Priddy said that the second wave will focus on voters who have not voted in the last 2 election years. Precincts will help with this new Phone Bank for democratic women using the Virtual Phone Bank. It is paperless. You can log in to the app and are assigned a code to go to our campaign. It is going on now. We need the support of the Precincts. Bill McHugh has been instrumental in helping with Phone Banks especially now when door knocking is not feasible. New Hanover is doing this but with a countywide method. We are doing it through Precincts. Email Bill McHugh or Rob Priddy to help. Joanne Levitan said she will share what she sends out to her precinct as she gets a very good response.

A question was asked as to whether the Absentee Ballot can be taken directly to the polling site. No one knows. We will get an answer from Sara Knotts.

3rd Vice Chair report – Paula Clarity thanked everyone. Her goal as head of the Communications Team is to get information out and funds in.

Tom introduced Rex Simmons, the new Fund Raising guru. His approach is a one on one approach.

Wes Brown of the Senior Dems reported that good things were going on in March, but now we are trying innovative things like Zoom meetings even with churches – parking lot services. The Sr. Dems are trying to focus on absentee ballots through the churches. Thanks to Tom Sapp for helping with Zoom meetings and other items.

Eileen Farrell reported on the Democratic Women. They are helping with the new voters. They miss their road meetings! They are still giving grant money and need support. Donations can be sent to Jeanine Flexner. Dues is \$25 to join.

No Old Business

New Business – already addressed Phone Banks

Announcements –

Quilt tickets still available - hoping to wait until we can meet in person. Maria Roccobono has tickets to sale.

SOBAD Tournament is canceled. Neil Gilbert thanked Dave Johnson for his work as co-director. All former players will receive an email asking for contributions/donations of the \$85 registration fee.

Raffle tickets are still in play. Party next year!!!

There is a Zoom meeting on Monday for Counsel of State Candidates.

Tom thanked everyone for their support.

Dale Todd moved to adjourn the meeting; Joanne Levitan seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise A. Mirandola
Sec. BCDP

NEXT BCDP MONTHLY MEETING July 9, 2020
7:00 PM

The party could use an Ipad at HQ. If anyone has one to donate, see Tom!!