



UNITY DEMOCRATIC CLUB
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2023, 8:00PM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Betsey Knapp, Scott Wasserman, Meghan Wasserman, Abigail Martin, Gayle Snible, Aaron Stayman, Ramdat Singh, Danielle Guggenheim, Morgan Evers.

Betsey Knapp convened the meeting at 8:05 pm, with thanks to everyone for organizing our participation in Pride on Sunday; particular thanks go to Meghan!

Committee Reports - Brief Status Update for EC and General Membership

a. Political Affairs, Organizing & Data

Last night's organizing and strategy meeting focused on solidifying the endorsement process, which will require changes to the bylaws. Our lawyer has advised that we not specify the process in the bylaws so that we can respond with flexibility to changes in the BOE calendar and particulars of each race. We'll therefore need to change the bylaws in a way to afford more flexibility. The new policy will have a process for vetting candidates soliciting views from membership. The endorsement calendar will vary by year, depending on the BOE calendar. We'll examine costs/benefits of electronic voting.

There was a motion to vote for approval by EC to present to the general membership a proposal to revise the bylaws section on endorsement. There was a unanimous vote in favor.

The Strategy Cmte also set goals for the rest of the year. These include getting into neighborhoods and EDs that are most strategically important to us. This will require training

ourselves and our membership on deep canvassing to develop long term relationships in these EDs, and familiarizing ourselves with local community organizations so that we can coordinate with their events. David Knapp is doing some research on community organizations.

b. Communications

Not much to report. Aaron requested a LTE on (topic?). He will resened his request. We will also need press for the next meeting.

c. Education and Programming

There is a meeting of this committee scheduled for Monday June 12. At the last meeting, the group decided on presenting Zoom training during the summer. Possible ideas floated were:

1. a presentation of the [Bronx-wide Platform](#) and the [Northwest Bronx People's Platform](#).
2. Canvassing skills; intro to VAN; values-based canvassing
3. Structure of NYS politics.
4. how to run for county committee (and other offices?)

Our EC group decided that the summer training should coordinate with the need identified by Political Affairs, Organizing and Data, that is on how to deep canvass on issues of importance to the community in order to build relationships over time.

Action item: Madeline to will set up meeting with Meghan, Michael, members of the Programming Cmte as well as Ellen Chapnick, Andy Caplan, and Kathy Solomon to talk about deep canvassing and organizing around EDs.

There was a discussion (not related to the Programming Committee) about organizing to increase our representation on the Bronx County Committee. Is this a club activity or an elected activity: helping people with petitions, etc.

Aaron: BF always had a club-based approach to county cmtes. We have already established a county cmte sub-committee to the strategy (PA&O) cmte. Ramdat and Abigail should not lead the committee, but act as advisors. Aryeh will lead the effort.

d. 8:20 pm Membership and Development

There was a great turnout at Pride and several folks signed up for emails. We will try again to solicit interest and membership at a nonpolitical event at the Philharmonic concert on June 14..

We'll man the entrances, walk through the park to get people signed up. Contact Aaron to volunteer.

Next membership meeting is tomorrow night.

Re: Development: Business cards, stickers, tee shirts have been produced. We'll distribute tee shirts to EC and do a fundraiser. Set up a separate Act Blue page for tee shirts fundraiser. Betsey suggested that Lisa create a graphic for email. EC decided on a \$25 price for the teen shirts.

e. Digital & Design

Betsey said we will have a form to request digital/design support. The website is not finished. We started it just for Pride event. Development will be slow and incremental.

General Meeting:

Our next General Meeting will be held at the Rambling House in Woodlawn on June 21. Ritchie Torres will be speaker.

Action item: Programming and Education will prepare backup questions for Rep. Torres, which we will use as backup, after the general membership has asked questions.

Action item: We'll also prepare content acknowledging Pride month (Ramdat).

We'll advertise our summer training on deep canvassing.

New business:

Ramdat has a fundraiser. Let's all post on our socials. Betsey and David are hosting a fundraiser for Brad Lander this Sunday.

Scott suggested that we frontload club business and introduce ourselves and our work before we have speakers, so we can highlight the work we are doing. The suggestion was received enthusiastically.

Ramdat has a fundraiser coming up. We'll all support this on social media.

We agreed not to have general membership meetings in July and August. The EC will continue to meet and standing committees can meet as needed.

Jaimie Estades, Professor of Social Policy Advocacy and Legal Foundations at Columbia University, will speak with us in the fall. Sign-in/Membership, Zoom, anything else?

Scott suggested a social BBQ on Sunday July 16 11-2pm, at the 3636 Greystone back patio. We'll have kosher and nonkosher grills.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted, Madeline Ritter