

Benton County Democratic Central Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2017

1. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Benton County Democratic Central Committee (BCDCC) was called to order by the Chair, David Rose.

2. Flag salute

Dave led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the Minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting as disseminated. It was seconded and carried

4. Approve Agenda

There was a motion to approve the agenda as distributed. It was seconded and carried.

5. Approval of Governance Documents – Rules, Policy Guide, and By-laws

Note that as people were seated for the meeting, the PCO's were seated in a designated area on the audience left side of the room.

a. Approval of Rules

The first consideration was given to the Rules.

Article 1 was modified to say that each member of the Central Committee is entitled to only one vote even if that person holds multiple offices.

Article 4 section b was modified to clarify that one person can hold no more than one unrestricted proxy.

Article 4 section d was modified to clarify that any unrestricted proxies must be registered with the secretary before any votes are taken.

A motion was made to accept the Rules as modified. Motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

b. Approval of Policy Guide

The next consideration was the Policy Guide.

In Article II, section 4b about the Treasurer, language was added to allow the treasurer to make payments with a debit card as well as by check.

In Article III, beginning with section 2, the set of standing committees was significantly modified. The duties of the Organization Committee were enhanced. The Communications Committee,

Labor and Commerce Committee, and the Elections Committee were added. The Platform Committee was changed to the Platform and Legislation Committee.

It was moved to take the section about the technical team from the Organization Committee and put it in the Communication Committee. Motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote. In Article V, first paragraph, language was added to allow the Executive Committee to appoint sub-committees as well as the Standing Committees.

Richard Badalamente moved that the term “jurisdiction over” be changed to “responsibility for” in all occurrences in the Policy Guide. Motion was seconded and then carried on a voice vote.

Carl Baker raised the idea that we need some ethics rules on the Elections Committee. He was concerned that members of the committee would use their position to on the committee to get themselves into an elected office. Carl proposed a rule that members of the Elections Committee can’t run for office or form an exploratory committee to run for office while they are serving on the election committee. The discussion broadened to ethics in general and whether we needed some sort of committee to establish a general set of ethics rules and guidelines for the Central Committee as a whole.

Ken Buxton moved that we table the ethics discussion and refer it to a sub-committee that is empowered to bring a code of ethics before the body at the next meeting. Motion was seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Neil Norman moved to adopt the Policy Guide as amended. The motion was seconded. There was some general discussion. The motion was carried on a voice vote.

c. Approval of Bylaws

Consideration moved to the Bylaws

The proposed changes to the Bylaws were small in scope. In Article VI, section 1, the words “which shall” were replaced by “shall”. In section 3, the reference to the 9th LDDCC was removed.

Neil Norman moved that in Article IV, section f, that the word “all” be removed.

There was a discussion about the preferred term to describe the position of Acting PCO. Allison Dabler, Organization Committee Chair, would like a new term, PCO Leader, to be used instead.

The discussion on the PCO terminology was temporarily suspended to deal with the motion on the floor by Neil Norman. That motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

The discussion continued about the definition and voting rights of Acting PCOs. No motion in the subject were offered.

Judi Johansson moved to approve the Bylaws as amended. The motion was seconded. Motion carried on a voice vote of the Elected and Appointed PCO’s present.

6. Balance of the Agenda

Given the lateness of the hour, the rest of the agenda was abbreviated.

The Chair acknowledged a thank-you letter from Bon Voyage for the gift baskets we provided.

The body was reminded about the Norm Miller Dinner and the Tina Podlodowski potluck.

Cedar Kennedy shared an announcement about the May Day Rally.

Carl Baker shared an announcement about the Cinco de Mayo events.

David asked for volunteers to put together a presence for the Cinco de Mayo parade.

Jessica Cole is the Fundraising subcommittee chair. She spoke about silent auction items for the Norm Miller Leadership Dinner. Ideas for baskets were discussed. Contact her at jesscole@outlook.com or text 509-628-7885. Would also like to have some volunteers to help with fundraising in general.

Reports from the committees were skipped.

7. New Business

Heidi Hill talked about the upcoming local candidate and campaigning training event, Who's Going to Run for Office? You?, on Monday, April 24, from 6-8 PM at the Union Local 598 Hall. She explained how the Elections Committee tries to steer potential candidates into positions for which there is no Democrat already running. In cases where there are multiple potential Democratic candidates for a given position, the candidates themselves are encouraged to talk with each other about the best way to avoid splitting the democratically-inclined electorate. The Elections Committee does not do endorsements or endorsement recommendations. It will be the Central Committee itself that vets the candidates and makes those decisions. These discussions will happen after the filing period is complete. Fifteen to twenty people have been identified as potential candidates in local elections so far.

Amplify will also be holding an all-day campaign training on April 29 at the Union Local 598 Hall.

Carl Baker informed the body that Rep. Dan Newhouse will be curtailing Town Halls for the foreseeable future. His wife is fighting cancer. There was a discussion about people getting together after the meeting to arrange for a gift basket to be sent.

Allison Dabler spoke about PCO progress. She also announced the PRIDE parade on July 16 at Howard Amon Park. Details will be coming out later. We still have 15 high-priority precincts for which we would like to have a PCO. Reid Romine was recognized as our youngest PCO at 13 years of age. Reid said a few words asking for a show of support at the Richland School Board

meeting on April 25 when he advocates to the board for the establishment of Gay-Straight Alliance clubs in the Richland schools.

The first edition of the newsletter is coming together. Jessica Monterey requested that anyone who has material for the newsletter to get it to her.

PCO appointments: Remy Devoe in precinct 292.

Acting PCO (PCO Leaders) appointments: Michelle Pirotte and Amanda Cruz.

Motion to affirm the appointments was presented. It was seconded and carried on a voice vote.

Cedar Kennedy announced that on May 6 at the Ephrata Public Works building there will be a meeting of the 4th CD PAC.

Congratulations to those who have been accepted into the upcoming Wellstone training in Seattle.

Kate Moran reminded us about the WA State Democratic Central Committee meeting this coming weekend in Walla Walla.

On April 23, the Tri-City Young Democrats are having a Bring Back the Bees party at Chiawana Park at 3:00 PM.

Joe Fraga was recognized as the Young Democrats representative to the Benton County DCC.

Meeting was adjourned.