

Portland Democratic City Committee May 5, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Chair Emily Figdor opened the meeting at 7:07, with time allowed for stragglers. There were 23 members recorded in attendance.

Motion is made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting by Ellen Farnsworth. Seconded by Craig Dorais. Passed by voice vote.

All committee members introduced themselves and shared what they like most about Portland.

Reports were delivered from the subcommittees:

Fundraising Committee:

- We are still working through some ethics commission and IRS issues, but no insurmountable challenges yet.
- We have inherited a debt from the previous officers as a result of the cost of the caucus being larger than anticipated.
- We discussed establishing a way for everyone to support the work of the Portland Democrats, such as a monthly/yearly membership program.

Candidates Committee:

- We would like to hold a candidates forum at the next general committee meeting in June, with all the state legislative candidates.
- We want to build infrastructure so we can become a resource to people who want to run in regional and municipal races, and also recruit people to do so.
- If anyone is interested in helping to organize the forum, please let us know!

Bylaws Committee:

The Bylaws Committee will meet for the first time on May 11 from 6-7pm. The location is TBD, but will be announced on the website and by email.

Community Building Committee:

The Community Building Committee will meet for the first time on May 12 from 5:30pm-6:30pm at the Portland Public Market House in Monument Square.

Issues Committee:

There were over 65 people who indicated that they wanted to participate in the Issues Committee. The officers are currently studying ways to accommodate that many people.

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Emily Figdor discussed how we could set a regular meeting time for general body meetings. The officers recommend the first wednesday of every month at 6pm, after studying the municipal calendar and trying to find a date that would overlap with the fewest other meetings and events.

Craig Dorais and others mentioned that the Maine People's Alliance meets the same time. Emily said we would contact MPA and make sure that there were no schedule conflicts. If the first Wednesday of each month works, we'll announce it on all communication channels.

Tracie Reed asked for volunteers for the Cumberland County Caucus on Saturday afternoon from 1-4pm during the state Democratic convention, explained what that would entail. You *can* be a delegate and volunteer at the same time. Volunteers should contact Tracie Reed or Joey Brunelle.

Tracie Reed discussed how we'd like to update the visual identity (the logo and branding) of the committee, so that when we communicate with the community we can inspire confidence and the right feelings. Scott Nash, a local artist and illustrator who has done logos and branding for Pious Ali and Mike Sylvester, has offered to help us. We'll be soliciting input from the committee and local democrats electronically and in person.

Main Event: Presentation by Joanna Frankel from Protect Our Neighborhood Schools and City Councilor and former School Board member Justin Costa about the crumbling Portland elementary schools: how they got that way, the politics of budgeting and renovation, and the way forward.

The powerpoint presentation will be available on the website soon.

The hat was passed. The meeting was adjourned.