**Portland Democratic City Committee General Member Meeting Minutes:  
June 1st, 2017 6:30pm – Mechanics Hall Portland**

Emily Figdor called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Approval for May Minutes were motioned by Matheux Knight, seconded by Craig Dorais, and unanimously approved.

Emily expressed that the meeting will consist of four major parts. The meeting will start with the election of the vacant Vice Chair position, move into an Issues Committee discussion, then onto brainstorming ideas for the July picnic, and finally end with announcements from other committees and officers.

**Vice Chair Elections**Emily briefly explained the role of the Vice Chair as one that would to help lead the PDCC and be a core part of team and its facilitation. She then opened the floor to nominations.

Emily Postman nominated Sarah Alexander, which was seconded by Harlan Baker. No other candidates were nominated.

Sarah provided a speech on the importance of the Vice Chair, what it means to her, and how she would take on the position.

Bill Weber asked the question whether Sarah would be able to continue leading the Platforms Committee. To this, Emily Figdor responded that he Vice Chair rule is interesting in that there are no specific duties noted within the bylaws, which affords Sarah the opportunity to continue running the Platforms Committee

Harlan Baker then motions that vote be done by show of hands considering Sarah Alexander is the only candidate. Craig Dorais seconds this motion and it passes unanimously.

By show of hands, Sarah Alexander is unanimously elected as Vice Chair of the PDCC.

**Issues Committee Update**  
Emily Postman is given the floor and takes the time to provide perspective of the Issue Committee’s process in which these criteria for the issues were selected.

Emily explains that the process for this meeting will be that she will relay to the group which criteria the Committee has selected, provide time for clarifying questions, then have the entire meeting break off into groups to discuss the criteria which has been presented. After this group discussion there will be a vote on which issues each member finds most important.

Emily Postman then passes around sheets with the criteria. The criteria is as follows:

1. Result in real improvement in people’s lives
2. Give people a sense of their own power
3. Alter the relations of power  
   *Shifting the dominance paradigm*
4. Be worthwhile
5. Be winnable
6. Be widely felt
7. Be deeply felt
8. Be easy to understand/able to frame in a way which makes sense to people
9. Must have a clear target  
   *A clear target is essential. Must be able to answer the question: who is the decision maker on this issue?*
10. Must have a clear time frame that works for us
11. Builds a diverse and inclusive community/party/movement
12. Builds leadership
13. Is consistent with our values/vision as expressed in the Portland Democratic City Committee’s mission and platform

Jon Hinck “Does the committee envision that the result will be use to push local elected democrats when issues when issues are not being looked at?” “Yes.”

There was a larger conversation of the effectiveness of the issues selected. The group decided that these were larger issues that would not be able to be solved tonight, but that this would be an iterative process and that these were larger issues that the Democratic party is struggling with. Conversation about why we chose these issues was halted at this point.

Verbal presentation of specific things to implement:

Making Portland more bike-centric

City-wide pre-K

Housing: Fair Rent

More Affordable Internet & City-Wide Free WiFi

Build a coalition around making voting easier and more accessible

NOTE ENOUGH INFO: Opioid Crisis & India St. Clinic

Emily: Do cities have the ability to do online voter reg? Gynne: Yes.

Specifics on housing? Fair housing ref seeking to stabilize rents. Lots of issues relative to fair housing.

Counted off by 6’s to break off in groups to have intimate discussions. Each member had 1 minute to discuss wish topics really meant the most to them and why.

Affordable housing and creating a robust civic engagement

Voter access initiative – concern that there was not a clear winnable target

Rent ref – concern that it would not build our brand

Affordable housing – need more clarification for specific policies

Pre-k is important for long term growth of the city

How do you increase supply?

Rent stabilization – most important, but there is another group out there doing this work. Would we help? Is there redundancy?

Bike – Most capacity to promote diversity? Could it be bundled under another header?

Potentially getting green energy/industry to fund anything?

City-bike? Is this something for us?

Pre-K – larger policy issues that we may need to look more into

Pre-K, Voter Initiative, Internet – Could PDCC take a lead role in any of these?

Group was given 3 stickers to place on papers to vote on issues. Stood up and voted.

Conversation about July Picnic. Emily turns the floor over to Patrick.

Patrick: We want to build on our success of last year’s picnic to attract more membership and build community to expand membership and raise PDCC awareness. We could add some meaning/hook by opening the objective. Patrick opened the floor for ideas about the objective/what would make people want to join us

Builds community and maybe a carnival/block party atmosphere

Somewhere off peninsula and on bus line

Get a prominent dem(s) to speak / meet and greet?

Had a survey earlier this year, one thing that rose to the top was that people wanted to interact with elected officials

Chief of police/prominent figures in the community

Group effort in community involvement? Beach cleanup week, for example.

Think outside the box and provide an opportunity to allow people that may be running for office and not just elected officials. If we could come up with something to have people show how they work with each other (politicians?).

Invite people in office and people who are running, but bring the community into it and make it fun, lighthearted. People are always looking for things to do with their kids.

Turn off to have a dry thing like each politician has their chance. Make them interact.

Turn off by holding it on July 23rd which is the CC dems picnic

Turn off don’t invite a bunch of cops

Politicians and a dunk tank

No stump speeches. Maybe a networking event. Scavenger hunt to find a democrat/politician.

WiFi hotspot?

The 29th is the festival of nations day

Outreach with the neighborhood associations

What’s the structure to pull people in to interact

Patrick notes next outreach meeting

Emily presents the July – December budget. Can the report be online? Budget included.

Last year we raised over 11k in 8, or 9 months.

Does the PDCC raise their own money? Yes, PDCC is a separate entity.

Is the voter guide breaking issues down, or endorsing candidates? Done after the primaries which focused on municipal elections and ballot initiatives.

Are we doing endorsements for municipal candidates? No, only providing information on candidates.

Did you put the voter guide online? Yes, we would like to have put more resources in the online version, but really only just threw at PDF up.

The league of women voters does a great job of doing a voter guide. Are you guys in touch with them? Yes, but ours may be unique.

Would the guide explain the 4 schools issue and how to vote? Yes, we will be covering many issues.

Emily encouraged the group to email her with feedback on the budget report and turns to quick updates.

Matheux does his report

Sarah – treasury report. Marching in the pride parade Saturday the 17th meeting at monument square 11:30

Sarah – Platform committee send out a survey to the core members, then send out an email to experts. This will happen over the next 2 weeks. Next meeting on July 6th will have an updated platform.

Craig – bylaws for officer role defining. Rewriting bylaws to help us be more effective.

Emily postman provided results for votes

4 votes for bikes

11 city wide pre k

12 Rent Stabil

15 Internet

24 Democracy initiative

Community announcements:

Harlen : tomorrow night monument square – say no to racism stand; CC dems picnic on July 23rd

Correction from sarah alexander on her email; add an “l” between her first and last name in email

Liz Waters: Dem drinks has been confirmed at bayside bowl

Heidi : Supporting the clear skies ordinance?

Craig motioned to adjourn; Matheux seconded; motion is unanimously approved at 8:14pm