**Portland Democratic City Committee General Member Meeting Minutes:**

**May 4th, 6:30pm – Mechanics Hall Portland**

Emily called the meeting to order at 6:30

Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Craig Dorais, current PDCC Vice Chair, announced that he would be stepping down as of next month.

Emily announced that our next PDCC general member meeting will be on Thursday June 1st. At that meeting we will accept nominations for, and elect, a new Vice Chair. Emily will send out an email to membership encouraging members to run for this seat.

**Secretary Elections**

Emily briefly explained the role of the Secretary as, essentially, the communications director of the committee. The Secretary oversees updating the website and social media, manage member lists and send emails to membership about meetings and events, and take minutes at PDCC meetings.

Emily advised that the Secretary should be tech savvy, organized, focused, and driven. Emily talked about how, ideally, the Secretary would lead a communications team and delegate tasks as appropriate. Anyone who is interested in any aspect of this job should consider joining this team.

Sarah Rawlings made a motion to use paper ballots in the election; Cynthia Handlen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Several members passed out paper ballots and pens.

Emily then informed the membership that we had 3 declared candidates for Secretary: Liz Waters, Sam Underwood, and Matheux Knight.

Decker Leonard nominated Liz Waters; Bree LeCasse seconded.

Sarah Rawlings nominated Sam Underwood; Beth Duddy seconded.

Bree LeCasse nominated Matheux Knight; Brian Chick seconded.

Emily asked if there were any additional candidates. When none stepped forward, she asked for a motion to close the floor to nominations. Gwynne Williams made the motion; Jon Hinck seconded.

Liz Waters was the first to speak, followed by Sam Underwood, and then Matheux Knight. Each candidate had 3 minutes to speak about why they should be elected.

The vote was taken and ballots were collected and counted by Cynthia Handlen and David Campbell. While votes were being tallied, Emily asked for Subcommittee updates.

Liz Waters gave the update about the Community Building Subcommittee, as Patrick Levalle Delgado, Chair of the Subcommittee was absent.

Liz noted that the Subcommittee is looking for input from the Platform and Issues Subcommittees to help with direction moving forward. The Community Building Committee would like to collaborate on events.

Liz talked about the annual picnic, but nothing has been planned yet.

Liz also announced that the next Dem Drinks will take place at Novare Res on Thursday May 18th.

Emily asked Liz to talk a little bit about the Community Calendar. She said that members could ask for, and be granted, access to the calendar and that people can post upcoming events that may be of interest to PDCC members. [I think this is the process she discussed]

Emily gave the Finance/Fundraising Subcommittee update, in Northe Saunders’ absence. She noted that a budget would be presented to membership at the June member meeting and will be voted on in June or July, depending on whether it is determined that significant revisions are required.

Emily also told the committee that Northe had put together a fundraising plan, that will consist (in the short term) of an appeal letter to the entire membership list and an appeal letter to people to past donors.

At this point, Cynthia and David had finished counting ballots and the results of the vote for Secretary were as follows:

Liz Waters received 1 vote.

Sam Underwood received 8 votes.

Matheux Knight received 12 votes and was declared the winner.

Matheux Knight was named new Secretary of the PDCC.

Gwynne Williams was then asked to give an update on the Issues Subcommittee (in Emily Postman’s absence).

Gwynne reminded the committee that at the last general member meeting, the Subcommittee brought a list of criteria to help determine what issues the Subcommittee should work on. Gwynne then asked if anyone had anything to add to the list and asked if the larger committee could help with this.

Gwynne noted that the Issues Subcommittee should have a more in-depth report next month.

Bree LeCasse was then asked to give an update from the Platform Subcommittee. At this time, minute-taking was handed over by Sarah Rawlings to Matheux Knight.

Bree produced several lists of names of experts for each topic and encouraged all members to view and add names of individuals who are proficient in those topics.

Sarah Rawlings delivered the Treasury Report which included several items:

* Gained $20 in revenue over the month
* Registered the Portland Dems for Portland Pride
* Ordered an ATM card
* Purchased Stamps

Liz Waters gave an announcement about the event calendar being maintained with Google Documents. Liz explained that if anyone might be interested in having access to the calendar, that they would need to provide their Gmail accounts so that Liz might invite them to the document. Liz also highlighted several upcoming events including the Dem Drinks for the month of May.

Emily Figdor then introduced John Kosinski as a guest speaker to discuss the status of Question 2 and the general state of things in Augusta.

John explained that, in his opinion, Augusta was “absolute madness”. He spoke on how schools are “just not being funded” and elaborated on the obstruction of the question proceeding. These obstructions included Governor Lepage, himself, and the 5 separate bills which were created to repeal Question 2.

John expressed concern that Republicans are threatening to shut down the State Government if the budget includes the surcharge to wealthy Mainers, which is concerning considering the budget has about 1 month to get approved.

Questions from the general assembly were asked, next.

* Sarah Rawlings asked what the Governor is saying about Question 2.   
  John responded that the Governor is saying that “People don’t know what they voted for”, in regards to Q. 2, yet the Governor himself seemed to be unaware that the tax only applies to income ***over*** 200k and not the entire amount.
* Emily Figdor asked what the Portland Democrats could do, themselves.  
  John explained that we can call Erik Jorgensen, who is on the Appropriations Committee and ask him stand strong on Question 2. Emily Figdor provided Erik’s number to the group.
* Another member asked how tax breaks benefit Republicans.  
  John commented that this was confusing to him, as well, as most Republicans represent impoverished rural communities and that it must be ideology more than anything. Cognitive dissonance was mentioned.

Discussion with John was wrapped up at 7:38pm.

Emily Figdor suggested to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm. Sarah Alexander motioned to adjourn and Decker Lenard seconded. The motion passed.

The next general meeting will be held on June 1st, 2017 at Mechanics Hall.