

12/7/17

Portland Democratic City Committee Monthly Meeting

Sarah Alexander opened the meeting. Sarah@portlanddems.org
29 members in attendance

Meeting begins with introductions and members recounted why they are grateful this season.

Sarah Alexander asked for a motion to approve the last meeting minutes. Several typos were addressed and voted to fix. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Sarah Rawlings opened with beginning nominations for the Chair position. Sarah Alexander was nominated and accepted. Seth Berner was nominated and accepted. Seth withdraws his candidacy for Chair. Vote is passed to close the nominations.

Seth affirms withdrawal.

Sarah provides reasons for running.

Craig Dorais motions to go vote by acclamation (vote of show of hands). Majority is met. Sarah Alexander is elected as Chair of the Portland Dems.

Sarah Alexander moves the discussion to the Platform Preamble discussion and identifies the preamble as an important way for individuals to glean the intent of the Platform.

Gwynne Williams presents a motion to discuss the preamble. Seconded and approved by majority. Discussion commences.

A question is proposed as to whether the Portland Democrats should have collaborated more with the Maine Democrats and whether adopting our own municipal platform on our own would void the capability to refer to ourselves as "Democrats". Many members spoke to this not being the case and pointed to many conversations with the Maine Dems themselves before working on the platform.

Additional Oxford commas were proposed to be added to the preamble.

Seth Berner proposes additional text to the preamble to show the Portland Dem's willingness and desire to work collaboratively with organizations throughout the state. Megan Lauer offers an alternative. This wording is motioned to be added to the preamble, seconded, and passes by majority. A vote is taken to adopt the amended preamble and passes by majority.

Conversation moves to the bylaws amendment documentation. Gwynne provides some perspective on how the process of amending the bylaws came to fruition.

A suggestion was made that in the future for the Portland Dems to provide “Red-line” versions when proposing changes to such documents.

A short discussion is had as to how the Portland Democratic City Committee will be identified within the Bylaws. A typo was found where the PDCC is referred to as “PDCC” or “the committee” and it was determined that in all cases the committee will be referred to as “City Committee” in all cases.

Gwynne begins discussion on each amendment, article by article.

Another discussion begins about the qualifications of membership to the PDCC. A few questions as to the why the rules are so exclusive is brought up. A point is made that the membership amendments have been made less stringent.

An additional discussion is held as to how many members it takes to have a meeting and how many members should be necessary to have a quorum.

A final discussion about officer conduct is held about what an officer can or cannot support/do publicly endorse candidates/referendums/ballot questions. A clarification is made that as the amendment is written an officer cannot do anything, but vote.

Each amendment is motioned for approval, seconded, and then approved.