



## DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

### Draft Minutes

Virtual via Zoom

Thursday, December 16, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

- Attendance: Charles, Joe, Meg, Kim, Sam Harlan, Michelle, Kenneth
- Welcome & Gather (6:30-6:40)
  - Chair - Charles Welcome
    - Popcorn style: Your name, preferred pronouns, and a rose/thorn
- Reports & Minutes (6:40-6:50 PM)
  - Call to Order
    - Agenda Overview - Legislative Process is our topic today
  - Chair's Report
    - Will need to elect a Treasurer - but will need a quorum to vote on this
    - We are coming up on a year of Biden's presidency
    - We are about a year from the special Georgia Senate election
    - We also have the Maine Legislature returning soon
    - We have a crucial election for Governor this year too
    - Please share ideas about the coming year, and our priorities
    - We will need a fundraiser early this year
  - Treasurer's Report
    - October financial report ([here](#))
    - November financial report ([here](#))
    - We ended the month with about one thousand (\$500.00 after payouts)
  - Minutes approval
    - Approve minutes of Special Meeting Oct. 3 ([here](#))
    - Approve minutes of October Meeting ([here](#))
      - No quorum available for minutes approval
- Officer Election for PDCC Vice-Chair (6:50-7:00 PM)
  - Chair opened the floor for nominations
    - There is no quorum tonight
  - No candidate presentations
  - Please tell Portlanders about this opportunity if you know anyone



- How to Influence the Legislative Process (7:00-7:45) \*This meeting was recorded
  - Introduction Questions
    - *What issues in this State are grabbing your attention right now?*
    - *Are there any pending bills that you know of that address these issues?*
  - Chair introduced Rep. Sam Zager (Portland District “HD 41”)
    - Presentation on influencing legislative process
      - Rep Zager “Sam” wants people to part of the process of governing
      - The format today is more like a workshop
        - Our goals include
          - How to understand how legislators work together
          - Be able to teach one another how to contact their legislators
          - Appreciate committee structure
          - Search for a bill, sponsors, status, etc
          - Learn how to submit testimony
        - How does the process work?
          - Introduction of the bill (legislator or Governor)
          - Has to be heard, a public process, with notice
          - Committees have to vote so that it can go to a floor
          - In Maine, we have Representatives and Senators
            - You can use Maine voter-look up website
        - How does all this work get done in a fair way
        - Discussion of cloture (December); timelines
          - Bills must be submitted early, although Governor can submit anytime
          - After cloture, bills must go to legislative council to see if they believe it is an emergency
          - Committees will look at the bills, who do the policy work on the bill
          - Each committee will hear dozens if not hundreds of bills
          - Committees may not be experts on all topics, so they rely on others to inform them
          - Being a legislator means that you need to be informed, but that is difficult with so many topics
        - Discussion of bill hearing



## Portland Democrats

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- When a bill is heard, you hear from the sponsor, then proponents, then opponents, then those neither for nor against
- Sometimes they will alternate proponents and opponents
- Testimony is usually limited to 3 minutes
- Some hearings last hours, and some last minutes
- The upcoming session is called “the short session”
  - Unlike last session, this is meant to be short
  - The long session, where the 2 budget is passed was last year (and will be next year)
- Bills Portland delegation want to bring attention to
  - LD1626 - Tribal Sovereignty
    - This is a carry-over bill
  - LD1196 - Primary Care
  - LD982 - Incarcerated Indiv Human Rights Commission
- Review and Discussion
  - How to find a bill, and what you will find
  - Review and navigation of the legislative website
  - How to provide testimony, remote and in person
  - All of last session included virtual testimony
- Q&A
  - Are there bills Portland Dems need to pay attention to that we haven’t discussed already?
  - Should there be district level discussion with Portland area legislators?
  - How do constituents “try again” if a bill isn’t successful?
- Announcements and Adjourn (7:45 PM)
  - Voter Outreach Meeting
    - Sunday, Dec. 19, 6:30-7:30pm ([Zoom link here](#))
  - *PDCC exec team will stay on the call after adjournment for any further informal discussion or questions from members*