



Meeting Minutes—November 16, 2023 @ TCEC, Ferndale

I. **Welcome:** Our Chair, **Glenda Stainback**, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed everyone.

II. **Approval of Agenda**—by acclamation

III. **Approval of September Meeting Minutes**—by acclamation

IV. **Report on November 7 Elections**

A. **Gwen Turner, Royal Oak Township City Clerk:** Ferndale, ROT, and Hazel Park constitute a group. Gwen enjoyed meeting people from all three communities. Early voting—9 days prior to Election Day—proved not be as successful as we had hoped. People didn't seem to know about it, and the turnout was small. However, early voting gives people another option, besides absentee voting, and voting on Election Day. There is hope for the future of early voting.

B. **Victoria Mitchell, Berkley City Clerk** (Heidi Barckholtz, Huntington Woods City Clerk, was not able to join us, so Victoria agreed to attend): Victoria enjoyed having contact with other clerks during the election process. There are over 13,000 registered Berkley voters. There are over 5000 on the permanent absentee voter list but 2723 on the permanent absentee ballot list. There were only 12 early voters during the nine days prior to Election Day. There were 3350 total voters (26%), of whom 2146 were absentee voters. Major challenges include staffing to manage all the work involved in a multi-option process, outreach education to inform people about options and process, and funding to support the entire process. The positives include giving voters options and more voter engagement. Needed are more workers, a more complete database, and more security. In addition to election responsibilities, the City Clerk is the keeper of records, administers the office, is in charge of special licenses (e.g., dog license), etc.

C. **Ed Norris, Oak Park City Clerk:** Ed has been involved with 32 elections, starting with the start of his career as a clerk in 2008 and his work as the City Clerk for OP in 2012. The population of OP is about 30,000, with 26,000 registered voters. There was a 20% voter turnout for the November election. Major challenges include staffing and volunteers to manage the volume of work involved in a multi-option process, outreach education to inform people about

options and process, and funding to support the entire process. Absentee ballots need to be turned in early to make it easier for staff on Election Day. In the future, they can be tabulated/counted during the days of early voting. Same day registration on Election Day is not helpful. People should register to vote earlier, again to help staff, especially those working the Election Day.

The Q/A included, among others, an emphasis on getting young people involved early to engage them and recruit them to help as volunteers. City clerks and lay people going into the high schools of our communities will happen in April/May. Partnerships are being formed.

V. Treasurer's Report (Nina Abrams)

Report on DSOC Treasury as of October 31, 2023

Checking Account Balance - \$1,469.92

Expenses:

Room Rent	\$110.00
Goodstock	50.00
The Original Print	94.87
Usual zoom and service fees	17.45

Income

Act Blue deposits	\$90.41
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Savings Account Balance - \$1,101.47, which includes interest of \$.09.

VI. Updates from Chair & Vice Chair

A. Glenda Stainback praised Mary Ann Fontana for her leadership of the OCDP Organizing Committee and the event, "Let's Score in '24!", on November 12 at the new OCDP headquarters (17100 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield). The goal was to create strategies for the 2024 elections: "360 Days of Action!" It was a fabulous, successful event that was very well attended.

In addition, Glenda Stainback thanked Nina Abrams for funding the DSOC ad that went into the Huntington Woods/Berkley Guide.

DSOC merch is being sold on our website. There are new additions. Check them out, and make a purchase of one or more!

Voter Outreach at the Trunk or Treat event was highly successful for children, who got to vote for their favorite food and dessert, and for their families, who got to hear about voting options and other matters pertinent to elections.

B. DSOC Committees: Volunteers are needed!

C. The DSOC Holiday party is taking place on Thursday, December 14, 6:30 PM, at the Oak Park Rec Center. The charge will be \$15 per person, and unwrapped toys will be collected for children in the communities. In addition, additional donations will be encouraged to support the work of the DSOC.

VII. **Elected Officials' reports:** None at this meeting.

VIII. **Good and Welfare:** Mary Ann Fontana announced that there will be a gun buy-back on December 9, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM at St. David's Episcopal Church in Southfield. Donations are welcome to support the distribution of gift cards for those giving up their guns.

IX. **Glenda adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.**

X. Those in attendance were asked to participate in the **ERA postcard writing project** before leaving the room.

Respectfully submitted,

Roz Schindler, Secretary