



September 21, 2023 DCOC Meeting Minutes

Welcome: Glenda Stainback called the meeting to order at 7 pm at the OP Community Center, Room B. Glenda welcomed new members.

I. Approval of Agenda: approved unanimously.

II. Approval of July/August Meeting Minutes: approved unanimously.

III. November Candidates Forum: Kudos to Mary Ann Fontana and Barry Lepler for organizing this Candidates Forum. Barry asked each candidate to respond to several questions re: their background, education, work experience, family, non-OP/HWds activities/work, (for OP) ballot proposals re: recreation-related activities and new community center, reasons for running for office & hopes for accomplishments in office.

A. Oak Park Candidates

Mayor Marian McClellan (Incumbent): Marian has served 12 years as Mayor and is running unopposed for her 7th term to make OP even better, safer, more community-oriented, more attractive, to be a model for other cities, to be the hope for the future, and to be a leader in the region. She is a widow and has two adult children who are wonderful and successful and have beautiful families. A school teacher previously, Marian became interested in politics to help give OP a facelift and improve infrastructure, services, parks, aesthetics, and more. OP was previously run down but has totally turned around and is filled with pride. Marian is active in the Mayor's Association of SE MI and other external groups. She supports the proposals as taxes in OP are relatively low and they are needed to support the continued progress of the city, including its community spaces.

Candidates for City Council (there are 3 candidates for 2 positions):

Julie Edgar (Incumbent): Julie's background is in English literature and journalism. She has two sons. She became interested in politics when she

worked as a reporter; she wanted to run for city government to help improve and help grow OP. She is active in the Democratic Party and specifically in the Area Agency on Aging. Julie supports both proposals as they are needed to improve OP's infrastructure and services. Julie is running to continue to make OP even better in all aspects of life for its residents.

Solomon Radner (Incumbent): Solomon is an attorney dedicated to civil rights and participates in the Innocence Project. He is married and has 4 children. He was encouraged by Marian to run for City Council and is running now to continue his work to help improve all aspects of OP already mentioned. It is very rewarding for him to serve citizens in the diverse city of OP. He is a volunteer EMT and works for Advocates for Warriors, which provides free assistance to vets and law enforcement officers. Solomon will not divulge his vote for the proposals but encourages citizens to vote for what he considers necessities for OP.

Crystal Bailey: Crystal, with a degree in social work from Wayne State, has held various positions in the OP school system. She is an entrepreneur/owner of Walk Fashion Show (which is her profession). She is former VP of the OP School Board. She will strive to bridge the gap between school and city and to encourage and support more strongly DEI in the city. She got involved in politics through her work as a business owner and by supporting mental health initiatives. She serves on the Triumph Church Hospitality Board and the Behavioral Health Advisory Council. Crystal does not support the proposals because she believes that taxes are already very high in OP and that there are other priorities for the city. Crystal wants to serve all OP residents, especially to encourage DEI and to improve other aspects of OP.

B. Huntington Woods Candidates

Mayor Bob Paul (Incumbent): Bob has served 8 years as Mayor and wants to continue to serve HWds to improve services and the city overall. He is married and has an accounting degree, which is helpful in this work. The owner of a company, he joined the City Commission and became more interested in leadership in HWds. He hopes to redevelop the City Hall property and improve infrastructure and parks as well as safety issues related, for example, to students crossing 11 Mile Road to BHS.

Candidates for City Commission:

Michelle Elder (Incumbent): Michelle is an immigrant and working parent. Her background is in architecture and urban planning. Five households of her family now live in HWds. Michelle is running because she wants to continue to improve services and other issues in HWds. She specially

wants to carry out her vision of an inclusive community. She mentioned Jessica as a strong ally re: the anti-racism efforts in HWds and looks forward to working with her.

Jessica Jacobs Steinhart: Jessica's background is in public health. She is married with 2 children and returned to HWds to be near family and also to help improve services and other aspects of the city. She has a strong social justice and health care focus. Jessica has been involved on the board of HWds Parks and Recreation and now wants to serve HWds in a new capacity. She looks forward to working with Michelle, especially on anti-racism efforts to make HWds a truly inclusive community.

IV. Important Election Updates - Joe Rozell, Director of Elections, Oakland County, was supposed to be with us. However, Lisa Brown, OC Clerk/Register of Deeds, joined us to discuss changes in the election process going forward. For example, she discussed the differences between early voting (9 days prior to Election Day; citizens can place ballot into the tabulator themselves) and absentee voting (citizens cannot place ballot into tabulator themselves; ballots sent to home). All questions can be directed to Lisa at this website: clerk@oakgov.com

V. Treasurer's Report: Nina Abrams

OPHWROT Democratic Club Treasury for August 31, 2023, as of Sept 21, 2023

As of August 31, 2023

Checking Account Balance - \$1,593.13

ActBlue Service fee for July \$2.57

Savings Account Balance - \$1,101.29

Includes interest of \$.09

As of Sept 21, 2023

Checking Account Balance - \$1,591.40

This includes Act Blue deposits and withdrawals to date.

Glenda and Nina worked with Michigan First to change the name on the account to Democrats of South Oakland County aka Oak Park-Huntington Woods Democratic Club.

AND there is a new DSOC T-shirt on sale on our website!

VI. Committee Reports (Committee Chairs) - Volunteers needed!

Laurei Lisi (Communications): The name change is done on all documents, and we are now working on posting on Instagram more frequently (Yehudis has agreed

to do so). Go to the DSOC store to purchase a T-shirt. New business cards and a new banner are coming soon.

Barry Lepler (Program): The October DSOC meeting will be in RO Township. The keynote speaker will be David Hecker (AFL_CIO and AFT leader): The State of Our Unions. Another speaker is being sought as well.

Aarolyn McCullough (Community Service): Donations for UA Workers are much appreciated.

VII. Elected Officials' reports:

Oakland County Commissioner Yolanda Charles: The OC budget passed and will allow expenditures for necessary OC improvements, including new housing projects.

VIII. Unfinished business: N/A

IX. New business: N/A

X. Good and Welfare: Remember to vote before or on November 7!

Glenda adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roz Schindler, Secretary