

Oak Park/Huntington Woods/Royal Oak Township Democratic Club meeting

June 17, 2021, 7 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Mary Ann Fontana

**Treasurer's Report:**

Andrew Cissel

Hard money account: \$984.52 savings; \$2499.54 checking

Soft money account: \$288.14 checking

Pay your fees whenever possible.

Officially celebrating Juneteenth as an official national holiday.

**Councilman Shaun Whitehead presentation.**

History of Juneteenth

June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, where they freed the last slaves left in America exactly two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. General Gordon Granger brought that message to the south.

Racial equality as well as racial reconciliation.

In the late 1800's, Juneteenth was as big as July 4th. Fireworks, dignitaries, elected officials. Sing songs, play music, play sports. A day of great jubilation. They actually called the first Juneteenth ever Jubilee. From there, though, was Jim Crow and nativism and imperialism and Juneteenth got suppressed. African Americans were actually shamed for celebrating Juneteenth. Today is the first bill for it to be a holiday since 1983, when they signed MLK day into law. A lot of the traditions in Detroit, festivals and such, started centered around Juneteenth. We do want a call to action after this meeting, and it may be uncomfortable. Things are still happening in our backyard. We also need to discuss Black Wall Street and what happened there. Our history of a slaughter of Black Americans. Over 300 African Americans were killed and all their businesses and homes were destroyed.

We are pleased to have two panelists tonight:

**Legacy Health**

Presentation 1: Mental health and healing racialized trauma

By Dr. Newton and Mrs. Smith

**Presentation 2: Black Lives Matter activist group**

Ms. Deidre Allen: BLM

Ms. Leslie Windless: Jim Crow 1 and Jim Crow 2.0

Pastor Edward M. Pruitt 3<sup>rd</sup> (who is running for Westland Mayor: Racial Reconciliation)

**Precinct Delegate committee report**

Co-Chair Glenda Steinbeck

Forgotten Harvest food box volunteers

July 14<sup>th</sup> Group activity. You can also volunteer every Wednesday.

Signing the petition to re-elect Governor Whitmer

Take action tab on website

**Nina Abrams**

Picnic Committee

June 22 meeting in person at Nina's house at 5 p.m.

Picnic will be Thursday, August 19 at 6 p.m. at David Shepherd Park at the large pavilion.

There will be four honorees.

Large group of elected officials.

Free to members.

\$15 to non-members.

\$10 for new members.

Pay through ActBlue.

**Don Jones**

New committee?????

Bike committee and safety?????? Couldn't hear him.

This was extremely hard to hear.

**State Rep. Regina Weiss**

Shout out to Councilman Shaun Whitehead.

Lansing updates

Voter suppression bills

3 bills passed through

So much opposition

3 versions of voter id laws

Governor Whitmer will not sign these into law.

Simplify language in the UIA.

Ballot initiative

We are in budget season.

**Oak Park Mayor Marian McClellan**

Burwood Wall

They wanted to build homes where Black and white people could remain segregated.

This wall still exists today.

History of racism in Oak Park.

County Commissioner Charlie Cavell

Passed fair housing initiative

ARP

Childcare discussions. Tri share programs.

Community mental health association.

Good and Welfare

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.