



Oak Park-Huntington Woods-Royal Oak Township Meeting Minutes,

April 21, 2022, 7:00-9:07 PM

I. Welcome New Members: **Mary Ann Fontana** called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, especially new members. About 40 people were in attendance—fantastic!

Reminder: Our June 16 Juneteenth celebration (and Brenda Lawrence tribute if she is available—otherwise, tribute will be moved to August) and August 10 picnic will take place at Shepherd Park. More information forthcoming next month.

Also: with all the ballot initiatives and petitions out there, make sure that you only sign ones that are legitimate re: reproductive rights, prison reform, wage initiatives, promote the vote, etc.

II. Treasurer's Report: **Andrew Cissell** encouraged everyone to pay dues—join or renew membership on the website. **Finances:** soft money checking account: \$613.14; soft money savings account: \$0; hard money checking account: \$2970.95; hard money savings account: \$982.33.

III. State Senator Marshall Bullock will be running for the new 8th District State Senate seat, which will include all of our three cities. He currently represents the 4th State Senate district. He shared his platform with our group, and listened to our thoughts and questions. Sen. Bullock is a native Detroit and very familiar with Oakland County. He has lived elsewhere in the US but returned to the Detroit area, where he hopes to continue to make a difference, to help create a better community. He has a rich history of political contributions and has been instrumental in numerous areas of work in the Senate, where he is Dem Pro Tem. He is running on a platform of problem-solving, experience, integrity, and solutions. He seeks bipartisan solutions and prides himself on working across the aisle and working on people issues. He has been successful in getting bills passed: e.g., banning the sale of vaping devices to minors. He believes that many challenges to Detroit are also challenges to the suburbs: education, public safety, small businesses, increase in worker wages. He has been endorsed by Mayor Mike Duggan, Rep. Brenda Lawrence, and others. Contact: senbullock@senate.michigan.gov or 517.373.7918.

IV. Nicole Wells Stallworth is the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood (PP) Advocates of Michigan. She talked to us about the status of women's reproductive

rights in Michigan if Roe v. Wade is overturned by the US Supreme Court, as we expect it will be in early summer. She also spoke to the following critical question: what can we do to help PP to protect women's reproductive freedom? There are 14 PP health centers in MI. Their charge is to provide sexual and reproductive health care services and to preserve reproductive rights in MI. Reversal of Roe v. Wade would mean that the individual states would have jurisdiction of all of these elements. There are already strict abortion bans in TX, OK, FL, and IO. MI could be next with the 1931 law still on the books that makes it a felony crime to provide abortions. PP is involved in several initiatives and strategies to prevent the 1931 law from taking effect: 1) in coalition with the ACLU and other orgs, PP has created a committee to establish a durable constitutional amendment for the 11.22 ballot to ensure women's reproductive rights in a number of ways; 2) PP has filed a lawsuit asking the court to deem the right to abortion a constitutional right and to deem the 1931 MI law unconstitutional; 3) PP has reintroduced the Reproductive Health Act to the MI Senate and House; 4) PP has engaged two PACs to assist with an electoral strategy; 5) PP needs volunteers to collect signatures on several different petitions, to educate others, etc. PP needs donations and volunteers. Go to: <https://www.miplannedparenthood.org>

V. Committee Reports

Donald Jones chairs the Community Service Committee: we need volunteers to carry out various projects: e.g., Forgotten Harvest once monthly, blood drive at the Oak Park Community Center, May 9, 1-7 pm: blood donors and staffers are needed. Contact: jonesdlus2@yahoo.com, 313.740.6300.

Shaun Whitehead (OP City Councilman) appreciates that our club is donating \$500 to the Juneteenth celebration essay contest for high school students. The planning committee is working hard for this in-person June 19 event (Father's Day). There will be performances, a mobile health unit available, and speakers, including information about the history of Juneteenth.

Glenda Stainback and Laurie Lisi are co-chairs of "When We All Vote," Michelle Obama's program for h.s. students. Glenda reported that several high schools are participating, with clubs starting up in several districts to train members to help with voter registration, etc.; Laurie Lisi reported on the status of PD recruitment. OP still needs many PDs. Our other cities are doing well with PD numbers.

VI. Elected Officials Greetings/Reports

For information about all of these electeds, go to their websites, email them, or phone them, depending upon information provided below. One key message conveyed by these electeds is that they strive to increase/improve diversity across the state. In addition, note that the OPHWROT Dem Club will sponsor several candidate forums in the next months, dates TBA, at which you will learn more about each candidate.

Natalie Price: a Berkley City Council member and former teacher, she is running for State Rep in district #5. www.votenatalieprice.com

Ksenia Milstein: She is running for State Rep in district #5. www.MilsteinForRep.com

Mike McFall: He is running for State Rep in district #8. www.mikemcfall.com

Jason Hoskins: He is running for State Rep in district #18.
www.VoteJasonHoskins.com

Helena Scott: She is running for State Rep in district #7. Scott4StateRep@gmail.com

Amanda Shelton: She is on the ballot in November for Oakland County Circuit Court Judge. www.shelton2022.com

Yolanda Charles: She is running to retain her seat in district #17 on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. charlesy@oakgov.com

Marian McClellan: Mayor of OP: she provided an update report on priorities in OP: traffic safety, improvements in parks: input is encouraged. She is doing an incredible job in OP, addressing so many important issues and needs. mmcclellan@oakparkmi.gov

Steele Hughes: He is running for State Rep in district #5. steelehughes5@gmail.com
313.443.8504.

Charlie Cavell: He has no primary opponent in his run for Commissioner in district #18. He provided an update of things happening in Oakland County. cavellc@oakgov.com

Jaimie Horowitz: The court is holding hearings in person. Public hours: 10 am – 2 pm. She takes special pride in advocating for and implementing a behavior health and wellness court/mental health services court.

Al Elvin: Oak Park School Board President reported that the meetings to appoint a school superintendent are going well. There are 32 applicants, and 3-5 will be interviewed.

VII. Adjourn: Mary Ann adjourned the meeting at 9:07 PM with thanks to everyone who participated.