

Minutes from DCSGP General Assembly Meeting for Thursday June 4, 2020

Present: Michael Byrne, David Schwartzman, Dean Murville, Eleanor "Echo" Ory, Joyce Robinson-Paul, Peter Bolton, Ann Wilcox, Lino Stracuzzi, Michael Dempsey, Darryl Moch (attended briefly to report and remind about delegate election),

Agenda

1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Approval of Last Month's Minutes (verbal) (1 min)
3. Treasurer's Report: (3 min)
4. Delegates for National Convention (15 min)
Who should represent?
How many delegates?
5. White House Protests (30 min)
Discussion
Action (?)
6. Sign on letter in response to Trump administration handling of DC Protest Petition (David Schwartzman) (10 min)
7. Stop Police Terror Project DC Testimonials on #DefundMPD (10 min)
8. Political Action and Policy Committee (15 min)
Fair Budget Coalition Report (David Schwartzman)
9. Website Updates (5 min)
10. Announcements:
11. Next GA meeting: TBA?
12. Adjourn

Notes begin at item 4

First item – National convention

David Schwartzman:

It will be online. It's scheduled July 9 through 11. In-person in Detroit. Nomination of presidential will be online. Even if you can't go to Detroit, consider being a delegate. We have four allocated delegates. We can also have alternates. Let's propose nominations.

Back to Michael Byrne:

He mentioned that he wasn't a member during the previous election cycle and wasn't sure on procedure. Floor open to anyone who wants to nominate.

Michael Byrne nominates David Schwartzman

David accepts and nominates Eleanor "Echo" Ory and Michael Byrne

Echo nominates Perry Redd, Joyce Robinson-Paul and Barbara Patterson.

David proposes that we close nominations and that the two people out of the six become alternates.

Michael opens the floor back up. Peter mentions that he supports who has already been nominated. Mike mentions that he supports Joyce and David being nominated.

Echo and Michael nominate themselves as alternates.

David suggests accepting the nominations by proclamation. David notes that Perry, Joyce and Barbara haven't confirmed.

Joyce joins call and accepts nomination to be a delegate in the convention.

David notes that we had a presidential preference on the ballot in DC. About 260 votes have been cast as a write-in. Howie Hawkins has certified that he is a write-in candidate. David proposes that in terms of responding to our own electorate, which is more people than in steering committee, DCSCP pledge to vote in the first vote for the choice of the presidential preference in the primary. We don't know what that is yet because the BoE probably won't issue an official result until the middle of the month.

Michael mentions that Perry Redd just provided his apologies that he won't be able to join the meeting tonight.

David goes back to talking about the delegates voting for whoever was the choice expressed by registered members as their preference on their ballots.

Peter makes comment about actual amount of votes for write-ins. David mentions that only Howie Hawkins' votes will be counted since he is the only person that registered with the DC BoE.

Michael moves to item #5 – situation with the George Floyd protests. He asks that white members sit and listen for the moment. Joyce says that the only good thing that has come out of this is that statehood is on the floor and getting talked about by the mayor because we essentially have a dictator taking charge in DC. Joyce said that Trump is controlling DC yet doesn't live here. So she hopes that this continues to be on the agenda. Joyce also mentions that she believes that perhaps not just one person should be in charge of the city (not sure if I heard this right, but I think her point was about spreading power into the hands of various levels of government).

Joyce mentions that there will be a meeting at 9.30 am at a Unitarian church and that she plans to be there to distribute pro-statehood material. She added that she has been making an effort lately to spread the word about statehood and mentioned some statehood-themed masks and that she hopes we can wear them at the convention next month.

Ann Wilcox joins call. She mentioned that she is enthusiastic to get statehood themed materials out there.

Darryl! mentioned that he thinks this could be a time for the party to fill a political space. He added that he thinks that materials need to be terse and to-the-point. He said that he is in DC and that he wants to "keep things we need to do for the national on par".

Question about websites for candidates. Darryl! mentioned that he has already purchased the web domains for each DCSGP's candidates. He spoke briefly about how to transfer those domains to the party once their campaigns start.

David asked something about the financial side and mentioned that he might be willing to make a financial contribution.

Michael acknowledges Darryl! as he has to leave the meeting and gives him the floor. Darryl! reminds about the delegate and alternate election for the PNC; he is informed that it was done at the beginning of the meeting and the information would be forwarded to him.

David mentions something about signing onto a letter condemning the Trump administration's handling of the whole situation with George Floyd and the resultant protests. He reads out the letter's intro, which discusses localizing control of the national guard, decentralizing the MPD and passing the statehood bill.

Ann mentions that the DCSGP should consider issuing its own statement.

Dean says that we should try to get something in the letter about banning the use of rubber bullets.

Echo mentions that she thinks the use of rubber bullets and tear gas is already illegal in DC.

David asks whether Echo and Joyce would be willing to draft up an addition to the letter. Echo says that she is swamped this week.

Lino joins the call and congratulates Echo on highest vote count in primary.

Discussion turns to how much Trump has spent in DC and whether he has paid any of it back. Echo mentions that his activities have cost the city over \$13 million in unpaid expenses.

David proposes vote for DCSGP signing onto the letter, Echo seconds. Passes unanimously. David mentions that it is an organizational sign-on.

Vote on signing on to Janice Jenkins' (if I heard her name correctly) letter on violence. Passes unanimously by hand-raise vote.

Michael moves to next item:

Stop DC State Terror. Discusses video testimonial about defunding or decreasing funding for DC police.

Lino mentions how group meetings have become impossible for smaller groups because the DC Police makes it so unaffordable.

David mentioned the NEAR Act and its funding. Echo mentions that she hasn't seen a great deal about it on social media. Ann mentioned that she had raised the issue at some of the at-large debates.

David mentions important to distinguish between the NEAR Act and REAR Act.

Discussion about who introduced it in the Council. Some think it was Gross, others McDuffie.

David discusses a statement about recovering the lost revenue from the latest Trump tax cut. He says that some DC millionaires who own businesses are going to get another tax cut. David adds that this is a big opportunity to address inequality, et cetera. David urges others, especially candidates, to take a look and get behind it. It came about through the leader of DC Fiscal Policy Institute. Charles Allen says he is on board so we already have some support on the Council. David says he thinks we could get a meaningful response on the council.

Joyce added something about home-ownership in terms of 'HPAP' system. She mentioned once you become a homeowner you have to pay property tax, which means new revenue. Joyce also spoke about need for DC Housing Dept mission remains to

provide affordable housing for its residents. She was part of a meeting discussed something about changing the terms (a bit technical here, I wasn't following it entirely...). Something about DHCD and district residents getting on the housing ladder, stifling growth in city and economic development in the long-run.

Next item is the DCSGP's website. Michael said that we have to skip over that as Perry can't make the call.

Michael opens up for any further business:

Nat mentions that he thinks the candidates should meet up to coordinate. Peter adds that he has some film skills and can perhaps make some joint campaign materials.

David brings up the death of David Wasserman, who passed away unexpectedly of lymphoma. Nat calls for moment of silence and also some kind of recognition of his contributions to the party.

Michael proposes that we continue to have meetings over Zoom while we're still in phase 1 opening. No objections raised. Michael says next meeting will be July 2nd at 6.30 pm.

Moment of silence for David Bosserman observed.

Meeting adjourned.