

NEBCD Membership Meeting Draft Minutes

July 9, 2016, 10:00am

NEBCD Campaign Office. 7122 San Pedro, Suite 114, San Antonio, TX 78216

40 attended

Exec Board Present: Bob Miller, David Coffman, Bryan Gerard, Jackie Christenson, Angie Peters, Jim Lucas, Madeleine Dewar

I. Chair called meeting to order at 10 am

II. Agenda was approved

III. Candidates Rebecca Bell-Metereau for SBOE D5, Tom Wakely for US Congress D21; Elected officials Congressman Lloyd Dogget's staff D35, Madeleine Dewar SDEC26, John Courage SDEC25, Maria Saenz-RodriguezSD25, Joshua Greene SDEC19; Visitors Danny and Sandi Root, Olga and Richard Sherrer (recently moved to SA - she was a County Chair), Allison Champion.

IV. Speakers: UNITE on the issue of Save Our Parks. Christine Miller and 2 interns outlined the preparations being made by the City of San Antonio to build a hotel in Hemisfair Park which is public land, advertised as a community park, owned by the community. When privatization of public land is being considered, a public hearing is required. However, no public hearing has been held. In these matters, the City leases the land to Hemisfair which subleases to private companies for payment. No zoning change is required. However, a Historic Design Review is required. The City proposes an incentive grant (which would come from a federal grant) to White Lodging. At this point 4 City Councilpersons have expressed opposition and 2 have expressed support for the project. The area is located in District 1, Councilman Roberto Treviño. The speakers urged everyone to talk with their council representatives and fill out the "Hands Off Our Park" cards to be delivered to Councilman Treviño. UNITE is a national organization whose mission is to organize the unorganized. It works with hotel, casino, food service workers in some universities and airports. Recently it won a union contract with the Hyatt Regency and Grand Hyatt hotels providing the best raises on the Riverwalk.

V. Minutes of the June 4 membership meeting were approved with 2 amendments.

VI. Chair reported that nebcd publicity chair Bill Johnson is in the hospital recovering from heart bypass surgery.

VII. Treasurer Bryan Gerard reported \$11,271.41 is the balance in the bank after payment of the full 5 months in advance for the campaign office rent, Labor Day Picnic lease, deposit for Dining with Democrats, and \$400 UHaul to bring everything from storage to office. NEBCD has subleased an office space to congressional candidate Tom Wakely for \$240/month.

VIII. Committee Reports:

A. Campaign and Candidate Recruitment:

1. Madeleine reported that Battleground Texas is meeting with her on Monday to discuss sharing the office.

Inquiry and discussion followed regarding the fact that BGTX had not provided information that it had entered into the VAN in 2014. This will be discussed further at the executive board meeting.

2. Stephen Price, Ezra Johnson, Bob Comeaux, and Josh Greene are planning a precinct chair training including the VAN.

3. NEBCD will do GOTV activity in precincts 2135 and 4210 as part of BCDP plan to maximize voting in 70%plus democratic precincts.

B. Communications Committee: New member Daliene Hendon offered to use her social media skills to announce, publicize, and report on club events.

C. Events and Fundraising:

1. Chair Tony Blasi reported on decisions made by the Labor Day Picnic committee. Time was moved later (from 11-3 to 12-4) giving participants in the union march and rally more time to come to the Picnic at Aggie Park also. Rebecca Bell-Metereau is interested in being a sponsor. Betty is working on the final mailout piece. Mailout prep will be in early August. Discussed promoting the idea of Act Blue payment for tickets.

2. Bob is working on a solicitation letter re: sustaining pledges to be distributed through constant contact.

3. More brainstorming needed regarding Spring fundraiser. Food and venue costs are becoming prohibitive for Dining With Dems traditional event. Plans for 2017 are to use the Aggie Park venue.
- D. Government Action and Monitoring: no report
- E. Membership: Co-chair Angie Peters reported that she is almost finished getting the membership list up to date. She also announced that tickets are available for members to take and sell for the LDP.
- F. Precinct Organization: Zach Lyke volunteered to be committee chair and was elected by acclamation. He is currently working to build precinct organizations in the Tom Wakely campaign.
- IX. Unfinished Business: David Coffman presented a history of the BCDP since 2008 and distributed a summary of the 4 goals developed by the ad hoc NEBCD Five Year Strategic Planning Committee. They are 1) work with allied organizations, 2) involve youth, 3) target elections that can be won, and 4) frame clear messages. It was moved, seconded, and passed to implement the Plan and develop and accomplish objectives designed to meet the goals.
- X. New Business:
 - A. It was suggested that Battleground Texas speak at the August meeting.
 - B. After discussion, it was decided to table a motion for the executive committee to negotiate with TXBG until further discussion by the executive committee. Madeleine has a meeting scheduled with BGTX area director Luis Cazares on Monday. Maria Saenz suggested we consider exchange of time, talent or treasure.
 - C. Madeleine had researched the pros and cons of making buttons with a button machine. It was moved, seconded and passed to purchase a machine for not over \$350.
- XI. Announcements:
 - A. Tues, July 12, 10am and 6pm, Volunteer Voter Registrar required training to register voters in 2016, BX Cty Elections Dept. Call to register 210-335-6625
 - B. Tues. July 12 at 6:30 pm BCDP CEC Mtg, Luby's 911 N. Main Ave
 - C. Mon, July 25 at 6:30 NEBCD Exec Bd Mtg, at NEBCD campaign office
 - D. Sat Aug 6 at 10 am NEBCD member meeting, NEBCD campaign office
 - E. By end of August must apply for ballot by mail
 - F. The Union Labor Day Mass was moved to 10am, followed by a march commemorating the watermelon strike in the TX Valley 50 years ago followed by a rally at Milam Park.
 - G. July 30, Casino Night, fundraiser for Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway. For more info 210-655-2944.
 - H. Sept. 24, 6pm, Stonewall Democrats fundraiser, Palacio del Rio Hotel, call or text Carolee at 210-347-9303.
 - I. Oct 3 at 12 noon, Trinity Lutheran Church, 5520 S. Flores, South Bexar County Educational Retirees Association, Candidates' forum and organize in opposition to the current version of Mexican-American history books being considered by the State Board of Education. Call or text David at 210-823-1739.
- XII. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.
Minutes submitted by Jackie Christenson, Secretary NEBCD