

**Marlborough Democratic City Committee
Virtual Monthly Meeting, November 13, 2021**

10:00 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84918122517?pwd=UEN3dVZCVFhDY1JPejcrQ2VMOWxxUT09>

Dial-in number: (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 849 1812 2517

Passcode: 882813

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
October Regular Meeting
- III. Communications/Correspondence
- IV. Treasurer's Report
- V. Reports of Officers
- VI. Reports of Committees/Action Items
 - A. Membership
 1. In-Person Meeting
 2. Internal/External Outreach
 3. Membership Material
 - B. Political Action
 1. Candidates' Forum – Quentin Palfrey , Prospective Candidate for Att. Gen.
 2. *Mass Call2Action* Virtual Forum – A Livable Future
 3. Chairperson
 4. Election/Campaign Strategy
 - C. Events
 1. Holiday Fundraiser
 2. Food Drive
 3. Social Justice and Civic Engagement
 - D. Public Relations
 1. Social Media
 2. PR Campaign
 3. Media Relations
 - E. By-Laws
 1. Review/Revision
- VII. Beacon Hill Round-Up
- VIII. City Hall/DEC Summary
- IX. Next Meeting – December 11, 2021
- X. Adjournment

In lieu of dues, members are asked to make an annual voluntary contribution in the amount of \$25.00 to fund the Committee's community and political activities. Checks, payable to MDCC, may be mailed to Treasurer George LaVenture, 346 Brigham Street, Marlborough, MA 01752. Glaventure@Trinity-Inc.net. Contributions may also be made to "Marlborough (MA) Democratic City Committee" through ActBlue.com. WE CANNOT ACCEPT CASH.

Marlborough Democratic City Committee Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Marlborough, MA
Monthly Meeting November 13, 2021

Officers: Dan Caruso, Chair; Barbara Allen, Co-Chair; Alex Williamson, Co-Chair; Debbie Doucette, Secretary; George LaVenture, Treasurer; Rosalind Baker, Affirmative Action Chair

Attending Members: Dan Caruso, Barb Allen, Debbie Doucette, Pamela McNair, Danielle Gregoire, State Rep, 14th Middlesex District, Roz Baker, Joan Gregoire, Teria Ellis, Doug Pizzi, Michelle Bodin-Hettinger, Lee Hettinger, Alice Wertheimer, Donna Scalcione, Rick Guzzi, Laura Wagner, Ward 1 City Council, Dave Doucette, Ward 2 City Council, Sam Perlman City Council-at-Large, Babs Fenby, Marilyn Perry, Ed Pastor, Barbara Shapiro

Guests: Chris Lorant, Druba Sen

Guest Speaker: Quentin Palfrey, Democratic Candidate for State Attorney General

Time Meeting Brought to Order: 10:06 AM

Candidates Forum

Speaker: Quentin Palfrey, Democratic Candidate for State Attorney General

Exploring the possibility of running for State Attorney General. This would only go forward if Maura Healey decides to run for governor. If she remains as Atty General he would bow out as a candidate.

Background: worked in the Atty General's office for a few years as an Assistant Atty General. Worked in the Obama's administration as Sr Advisor for Jobs and Competitiveness. Also was Acting General Council of US Dept of Commerce where he oversaw 400 lawyers from inauguration day thru the summer. Involved in the creation of the Build Back Better bill and overseeing the census.

There are 4 issues that he believes he can have the most impact on being State Atty General. Must look to the state for leadership instead of waiting for the federal government to step in.

- 1) Crisis of inequality and consumer protection
- 2) Racial Reckoning, policing reform and housing justice
- 3) Climate Crisis
- 4) Health Insurance

Has a vision of working his campaign beginning with a grassroots movement.

Questions:

Alice W. – American Values, what do you think they are?

Find ways of building bridges we disagree with to make democracy work.
Wanting to be proud our country again.

Laura W. – What would you prioritize in the criminal justice area.

Focus more on criminal justice and policing reform. Imprisoning too many people for too long for too minor of a crime. Race has too much to do with who ends up in the criminal justice system. We criminalize poverty. Need to do more about pretrial detention, re-entry into society, solitary confinement. Homelessness, mental health and substance use disorder challenges are not part of police purview. This is a Social Services challenge. Need to provide housing and better care services. Incarceration will never be the answer to opioid crisis or homelessness. Need to be more aggressive in police reform.

Lee H. – Public Corruption Unit (state) has taken a backseat lately. Would you refocus on this if you become Atty General?

During the last 4 yrs-Trump Administration- the current Atty General has worked more on the federal side of corruption out of necessity. Now that we are under the Biden Administration there will be more focus on the state corruption side Health Care, Medicare/Medicaid fraud and to re-establish the Public Corruption Unit with its own leadership.

October Minutes: Approved; Babs Fenby accept to file October minutes, Dave Doucette seconds the acceptance

Communications/Correspondence: None per Secretary

Treasurer's Report: MDCC Bank Balance as of October 20, Babs Fenby accepts to file report, Barbara Allen seconds the acceptance of the report. All approved

Officer's Reports

Chair Comments:

Revised order of Agenda. Divided under Standing Committees.

Dues: Need to set dues amount based on the percentage of the members who are voting and attending at the time per By-Laws. Dues should be agreed upon in December before the newyear begins in January.

Executive Board Mtg was held November 11th. Minutes will be available by December 11th, meeting. Executive Board Meetings will be held bi-monthly beginning in January 2022 on the Wednesday prior to our monthly mtg.

Alex Williamson will be stepping down as Chair of Political Action but will remain as Co-Chair of MDCC. Ward 2 members will need to decide if they want to have a temporary chair during the Caucus. Re-organization is done in April 2022. Alex can make his decision then.

Committee Reports -

Membership Report: Barbara Allen

In-Person meeting

Location: Space needs to be low cost or free, available parking, possible WI-FI and accessible to handicap persons.

Executive Committee has places to call and will report back in January.

Locations to call, Lost Shoe, Apex, local church, Wayside Racquet Club, Coffee Loft, New Horizons, Silk Road Bistro, Stephan Anthony's Restaurant, and SEIU (Service Employee International Union) Will hopefully find a place for February unless Covid intervenes.

Comment- Danielle Gregoire; meeting in restaurants is taking up seats of paying customers taking money away from the wait staff and restaurant.

Meeting start time can be revisited or may depend on where we will be meeting. In the past 10:00 am has been the time most voted.

No Membership meetings to report on. Will schedule a meeting in January, prior to mthly MDCC meeting. Planning Membership activities.

Dan will be sitting down with the committee chairs to focus on a concrete issues/activities that MDCC can be involved with as an organization.

Membership material such as handouts about MDCC, stating our values and mission should be included in our brochure. This project will include Doug Pizzi, our PR/Media person.

Requesting members to help out on our committees even if it is short term.

Political Action:

Mass Call2Action sponsoring an online forum tonight on zoom at 7pm. Numerous local leaders will be in attendance. Subject is climate change.

Dan is going to reach out to other Dem City and Town committees to work together on social justice activities and candidate forums.

Very Important. Need a Chair for Political Action Committee. There are members on this committee but it needs a chair to lead the group. It was a setback when Kathleen O'Connor and Alex Williamson stepped down. Lots of

work with political action with elections, important social issues, candidates's forums etc. need to be more involved outside our group.

Events:

Holiday Fundraiser—Teria and Pam just began planning.

Food Drive in January 16, 2022

Social Justice—We need to be more involved.

Public Relations

Doug Pizzi – Not in attendance

We need to promote ourselves through Social Media and print media. Dan will meet with Doug. A second website was found, Marlborough Democratic Committee. It may have been created by one of our members when we first began using social media. Will see if this can be purchased or deleted. Need to find owner.

By-Laws

Dan Caruso and Marilyn Perry need to review.

Beacon Hill Round-up

Danielle Gregoire; State Rep, 14th Middlesex District

Received \$500,000 for Marlborough from the State's American Rescue Plan thru both our state reps hard work, Danielle and Carmine Gentile. President Biden has signed the Infrastructure Bill which will be bring \$12 billion to Massachusetts. The House Speaker has requested Danielle to head the project of finding the best way to spend the infrastructure funding to help our citizens have better lives. Attended briefing with Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigiege and will be meeting with Labor Secretary Marty Walsh later to go over ideas.

End of session anticipate going over Healthcare Reform, Energy legislation and potential reforms around Soldier's Homes and how we treat our veterans which was subsequent to our Veteran's Bill Danielle shepherded thru the process earlier this year.

Redistricting is now settled. Danielle's district #14 will now include 12 out of 14 of her previous Marlborough precincts plus 2 precincts in Framingham.

Questions:

Dan Caruso: Are the Framingham Districts new?

The districts are brand new due to Rep Robinson in Framingham leaving.

Barbara Allen: Have you scheduled a date for your kick off and when is filing date due for your position.

The filing date begins in February and due around tax day, April 15th and my Kick-Off event will be in April. No final date has been scheduled yet.

Babs Fenby: Will Police Dogs ride in ambulances when there are serious episodes to check their mental health as well?
The Senate has just passed this law unanimously. Danielle supports this.

Dave Doucette: Is the money from the American Rescue Plan and Infrastructure Bill going to city and towns directly? How will this be spent? Also is there going to be any expansion of the rail service between Boston and western part of the state?

ARP money is going to cities and towns directly. Governor Baker mistakenly believed that he should be in charge of the disbursement of the money. The House disagreed and fought to have them be the ones to make the decisions of how the money should be spent. This is why the Speaker of the House chose Danielle to head the money distribution from the Infrastructure Bill before Gov Baker took it over.

Danielle was in a meeting with over a 100 of her colleagues this summer and the East/West Rail was on the top of the list for use of funds from the Infrastructure Bill.

City Hall/DEC Summary

Dave Doucette, City Council, Ward 2

Election went well. Congratulations to all. Teona won over Rob Tunnera. McGee Farm project has been appealed. And McDonalds also appealed the sharing their entrance with another fast food restaurant

Sam Perlman, City Council-at-Large

Thank you everyone for your support. Glad to have another woman on the Council. Inauguration scheduled for January 3, 2022

Laura Wagner, City Council, Ward 1

Thank everyone for your support.

Michelle Bodin-Hettinger, School Committee

Thank you for your support. Received Budget schedule. Last budget season was done for a 3yr period. Will review to determine if School Committee is still on track with their budget numbers.

Attended the School Committee Conference in Hyannis. Marlborough is one of the top 3 school districts to have successful covid vaccination rates. Schools are doing vaccination clinics for the children 5-11 yrs in the schools. Working with Bouvier Pharmacy

Questions

Teria E. - Have the covid vaccines been mandated in our schools?

Michelle Bodin-Hettinger stated that there is no mandate.

Barbara S. – Why didn't we give Dave Garceau any support against Vigeant?
Dan Caruso – he is unenrolled and not listed as a democrat. Our By-Laws stipulates supporting democrats only.

Move to adjourn, Babs Fenby
Second the motion to adjourn, Barbara Allen

ADJOURNED: 11:30AM

Next Meeting December 11, 2021

**Submitted by Debbie Doucette, Secretary
November 29, 2021**