



Minutes of the Bonneville County Democratic Party Central Committee, Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Miranda Marquit, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.

In attendance:

Miranda Marquit, Chair	John Kennedy
Jim de Angelis, Vice Chair	Harry Guelzow
Pat Tucker, Secretary	Eric Olvera
George Morrison	John Radford
Dennis Sutton, State Committee Representative	Sandra Brow
Collett Olson, State Committee Representative	Jim Delmore
Dave Nipper	Jackie Stephens
MaCay Frerichs, Strategic Messaging Committee chair	Leslie Smith
Lary Larson	

Roundtable introductions were provided for the benefit of the new people in attendance.

1. Report of the Chair and Vice Chair

- Ms. Marquit reported that the results of the December 5th mayoral runoff election went extremely well for Mayor Casper and that the negative campaigning appeared to backfire on all counts.
- Ms. Marquit noted that the turnout for the holiday party at Mr. De Angelis's home was excellent, and that quite a lot of canned good were donated for the Community Food Basket.
- Ms. Marquit reported that a meet and greet on Jan. 10 from 3 to 4 p.m. at the downtown Villa Coffeehouse for Democratic gubernatorial candidate A. J. Balukoff went well with 40 people attending. George Morrison said the event was very successful, enjoyable, and well attended.
- Ms. Marquit noted that the campaign for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Paulette Jordan would like a meet and greet the last week in January. It was agreed that it would be at Pat Tucker's gallery.
- Ms. Marquit said that the turnout for Pizza and Politics on Sat., Jan. 13, for College of Eastern Idaho President Rick Aman was good with 30 to 40 people attending. The turnout has been steadily growing to the point of needing a new venue. Collett Olson has been tasked with finding a new, larger place to meet. Ms. Olson noted that MacKenzie River Pizza does not have a separate meeting room. She will provide a report at the February 2018 meeting.

- Ms. Marquit is coordinating the 2018 Women's March on Sat., Jan. 20. This year's theme is Power to the Polls. The march will start at 11:00 a.m. at the Museum of Idaho, with Keisha Peterson singing the national anthem, proceed to the main rally at the Public Library, and conclude at the offices of the Eastern Idaho Congressional delegation. Mayor Casper will speak this year, along with Rev. Lyn Stangland Cameron, Pat Tucker, Arantza Zabala, Cecile Perez, and others. Ms. Olson asked whether local Republican women will attend. Ms. Marquit said she invited them to attend but did not hear back, and so is assuming none will.

2. Leslie Smith provided the Idaho Falls Progressives liaison report because Annette Harker was out of town.

- The monthly meeting will be held Sat., Jan. 20, at the Labor Training Center.
- An Organizing to Win grassroots training session will be held Sat., Jan. 27th from 9 to 3:30 p.m. It will be led by Adrienne Evans, executive director of United Vision for Idaho. Those interested in attending should RSVP on the Bonneville County Democratic Party Facebook event page.
- On Sat., Feb. 10, from 10:15 to 11:45, a stress management workshop will be led by Judy Schmidt at the Public Library.
- Ms. Smith reported that the Reclaim Idaho petition drive is making strides and the Jan. 6 kickoff went well with a great turnout. Lary Larson was on hand to notarize signatures. But collecting the next tier of signatures will be harder because it will be with people not necessarily aware of the drive. Training will be held on Sat., Jan. 20 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Villa Coffeehouse. Ms. Smith noted that 10% of the required signatures in District 33 have been collected, and 6% of the required signatures in District 30 have been collected. The drive will end on April 30, 2018. Ms. Smith said that volunteers are badly needed, but suggestions for where to collect signatures would be a big help also, particularly because she is new to Idaho Falls.

3. MaCay Frerichs provided the Strategic Messaging Committee report.

- Not making a lot of headway on the website yet. Ms. Marquit is working with the intern.
- The legislative priorities are (1) a livable wage, (2) funding for education and decoupling education funding from the sale of public lands, (3) protect public lands from being sold off, (4) Medicaid expansion, (5) add the words, (6) repeal Idaho's noncompete law.
- Pat Tucker set up a meeting with Idaho Senate Minority Leader Michelle Stennett and the Strategic Messaging Committee on Fri., Dec. 9, last year to determine whether she could be convinced to run for governor. Ms. Frerichs reported on the meeting attended by John Kennedy, Ms. Marquit, Ms. Stennett, and herself. Ms. Stennett said she is comfortable being the minority leader and feels she can make more change that way rather than running for governor. Ms. Stennett said that the IDP has not been helpful to her in her political career. She will not be available to be a speaker at the Truman Banquet because the Clint Stennett fundraiser is that weekend. She will be available to advise. John Radford noted that he talked with Mat Erpelding at the State of the State address in Boise. Mat said that District 33 is the next seat that Democrats need to win, and the best chance to win the seat in 20 years is this year. He urged people to consider running for that seat in particular. Dennis Sutton said that Bonneville County was Democratic until 1980. Ms. Marquit noted that there is money in the Bonneville County Democratic Party budget to help candidates. She noted that Janet Allen and Jerry Sehlke were expressing interest and now seem to be backing off.

4. Pat Tucker presented the Event Planning/Activities Committee report.

- Ms. Tucker distributed the feasibility study for having another Quality of Life festival in June 2018 for consideration with a vote at the February Central Committee meeting. Leslie Smith requested that the feasibility study be sent to Elizabeth Cogliati of the Idaho Falls Progressives.

- Ms. Tucker reported that the Salvation Army Bell Ringing on Dec. 16 went well with Gregory Moody noting that above average donations were received.
 - Planning for the Truman Banquet is going well. George Morrison and Ms. Tucker toured the Waterfront facility on Jan. 15. Mr. Morrison said he liked the facility and found it to have a better image for the county party than last year's venue even though it is slightly more expensive. Ms. Tucker said that she negotiated the fee down from \$1,200 to \$1,000 with Snake River Landing. Mr. Radford suggested that with having both of the Democratic gubernatorial candidates as keynotes, a nicer facility would be appropriate. Lary Larson wanted confirmation that both candidates know that both are speaking at the banquet. Ms. Marquit confirmed that both have been accepted as keynotes and have been advised that both will be speaking. Mr. Radford proposed allowing local candidates to speak at the Truman Banquet before the keynotes. Ms. Tucker stated that Dixie's Diner will cater again this year, and tables and chairs will be provided by Signature Party Rental. Tickets will be \$50 again.
 - Discussion included have town halls to introduce legislative candidates. A breakout session will be held on that topic after the meeting.
5. Ms. Marquit presented the Campaign Committee report.
- The IDP Assessment on Dec. 2 went well in part, but the second half was pie in the sky, according to Mr. Sutton.
 - Ms. Marquit reported that Dave Manson has agreed to chair the Fundraising Committee and is looking for six members to serve on the committee, with each having a fundraising goal. Ms. Tucker volunteered. Mr. De Angelis said he would consider serving on the committee. People interested in serving on the committee should talk with Ms. Marquit.
6. Mr. Sutton and Collett Olson gave the State Committee Representatives report.
- Tom Hamilton, IDP data director, is on administrative leave. He was charged with domestic battery on Jan. 7.
 - The IDP voted to unionize, with the Vermont state party following suit.
 - A meet and greet for Aaron Swisher, Democratic candidate for the 2nd Congressional District against incumbent Mike Simpson was held Sat., Dec. 16, at Villa Coffeehouse on Hitt Road. He focused heavily on income inequality. Ms. Marquit noted that J. D. Wardell of Pocatello is running as an independent for the seat.
 - The 24th annual Frank and Bethine Church Gala is March 10th. Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper will be the keynote. Tickets are \$100.
 - Ms. Olson reported that a phone survey was done in Latah County, which is Paulette Jordan's home county. Good traits used "he" while bad traits "she." Ms. Olson warned members to be wary of answering survey questions.
 - Ms. Olson discussed finding a new Pizza and Politics venue. She reported that Leo's would not be available on Sat. because of being too busy, MacKenzie River Pizza does not have a separate conference room, and Papa Kelsie's is not available. Ms. Tucker recommended that she try the eat-in Pizza Hut facility at the mall. Mr. Radford said to not get tied down with having it at a pizza establishment, but to bring pizza to the best facility. He suggested the City Recreation facility on Skyline Drive.
7. George Morrison presented the Treasurer's Report for John Conquergood, who was unable to attend.
- The 30-page 2017 Sunshine Report for the county party has been filed with the Secretary of State. \$13,397.23 was spent during 2017 and the cash balance is \$8,398.94, and is available online.
 - Lary Larson reported that the Budget Committee met on Sat., Jan. 6 to set the budget for 2018. Mr. Larson distributed to the proposed 2018 budget. It includes \$25,499.00 in projected income

including \$10,000 from the Truman Banquet (gross) and \$25,460 in projected expenses including \$10,000 available for candidates running for office in 2018 and \$6,000 for expenses for the Truman Banquet. Mr. Sutton moved to accept the budget as written, which was seconded by Ms. Tucker. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

7. Reports from Other Committee Chairs included the following:

- Dave Nipper, the chair of the Rules and Bylaws Committee, distributed proposed wording changes to Article 3, Sections 1 and 3, of the Rules and Bylaws: In Article 3, Section 1, “may” should be “shall” for consistency when referring to legislative chairs and committee memberships. In Article 3, Section 3, paragraph “E” should be “D.” The proposed changes will be voted on at the February Central Committee meeting.
- Harry Guelzow asked what became of the resolution to abolish superdelegates at the Democratic National Convention. Ms. Marquit confirmed that the resolution has been forwarded to the national party.
- Ms. Marquit reported that Mary Montalbo has requested to be appointed precinct captain of Precinct 55, which is vacant. Mr. Sutton moved that the appointment be approved, and the motion carried by voice vote. Jackie Stephens was appointed vice chair of Precinct 21, and Kaycee Byron was appointed vice chair of Precinct 3. Mr. Sutton moved that these appointments be approved, which was seconded by Ms. Tucker. The motion carried by voice vote.
- Ms. Marquit noted that the filing period for the state legislature is Feb. 26 through March 9. It was agreed that paperwork will be completed at the Feb. 20 Central Committee meeting. A County Commissioner seat and College of Eastern Idaho positions will also be open. Mr. Radford noted that Idaho may get a third Congressional seat based on the results of the 2020 census, and that he has heard that Mike Simpson may retire in 2020.
- Ms. Olson said that news accounts report that of the top 15 towns supporting Donald Trump, Idaho Falls is fourth, indicating the uphill battle for a Democrat to win.
- Ms. Marquit noted that the Boise County Republican Central Committee has proposed a resolution that municipal elections be changed from nonpartisan to partisan.
- Eric Olvera said that he is interested in starting a Young Democrats Chapter at Idaho Falls High School, and needs a teacher sponsor. Mr. Romero was recommended as a strong Democrat.

Ms. Marquit adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Two Breakout sessions were held.

Town Halls: John Kennedy and Kaycee Byron volunteered to work on town halls.

Truman Banquet: Lary Larson, Jackie Stephens, George Morrison, and Jim De Angelis volunteered to make phone calls. Jim Delmore, Jackie Stephens, Jim De Angelis, and George Morrison volunteered to work on auction items. MaCay Frerichs volunteered to help decorate.