

NDCC City Committee Agenda

September 14, 2023

Call to Order

Derek Thibeault called the meeting to order at 7:03.

Executive Board present: Derek Thibeault, Susan Elberger, Will Darby, Linda Harriet-Gathright, Jim Ravan and Jason Telerski. Twenty-nine additional committee members present.

Chairman's Introduction

Derek Thibeault congratulated Mayor Donchess and his campaign team on the primary win the prior Tuesday.

Introductions

The executive board and committee members present introduced themselves.

Special Guest - Congressman Ro Kanna

Congressman Ro Kanna spoke over Zoom following some technical difficulties. Congressman Kanna spoke of his support for the United Auto Workers, and their right to a fair portion of the increasingly large profits of the Big 3 automakers. He is also encouraging unionization at Tesla. Congressman Kanna spoke of the importance of clean steel plants, and how union-based, US produced steel has $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ the carbon footprint as chinese-made steel. He further stated numerous other opportunities exist to bring back manufacturing jobs in the United States thanks to BidenEconomics.

Congressman Kanna acknowledged the difficulties for young adults, including high costs of child care, housing and student debt.

Congressman took questions on the Federal Government's requirement to increase nursing home staffing levels, and addressing homelessness as a national rather than local issue.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of September NDCC minutes were deferred because Jim and Susan were not present at the August meeting, and there were insufficient executive board members to approve without them.

New Business

Mayoral Election Results

Derek Thibeault discussed the Mayor's primary win and urged the group to not take the votes received for granted, reminding the committee of the need to win in November.

Mayor Donchess expressed differences for his vision of the city with his opponent's; stating that Mike Soucy vowed to "change the city 180 degrees." The mayor promoted the strong candidates on the ticket across all wards, including the Alderman and Board of Education.

The Mayor encouraged the committee to work together on a combined canvassing strategy. He stated canvassing would be coordinated every weekend, and volunteers can get involved by calling or emailing Patrick Conway, the mayor's campaign manager.

Mayor Donchess applauded the approval of the Firefighter's contract earlier in the week, and noted the IAFF 789 endorsed his candidacy for mayor.

GOTV for Paige Beauchemin

Derek Thibeault reminded the committee of the primary on Tuesday for the special election for Ward 4 State Representative. He stated a concern for lack of awareness given the vote was only one week after the mayoral primary.

Laura Telerski stated the DVCC had set up a virtual phone bank for volunteers that did not want to knock on doors, as well as five targeted walking lists in ward 4.

Laura Telerski mentioned a separate special election was being held in Northwood/Nottingham on Tuesday for State Representative.

NDCC Sustaining Membership Drive

Jason Telerski stressed the importance of sustaining members to the NDCC to fund the city's candidates' campaigns. As an example, he relayed the postage in 2022 cost more than the money raised by the NDCC BBQ fundraiser. A link to the sustaining membership drive will be posted to the Facebook site.

Committee Reports

Treasurer Report

It was reported the NDCC has \$24423 in the bank, and \$11571 has been raised since the last meeting, with a check for \$3448 pending deposit. Further, \$839 was expended since the last meeting, with an outstanding check of \$8000 to be cashed.

Money from the fall Gala and candidate buy-in is still being received. Confidence was expressed that the NDCC can cover the expenses for the 2023 election.

Fundraising Committee

Christal Lloyd sent notes for the fundraising report, which stated prices for the Gala are increasing on Sept. 22, and ticket sales will end before the event.

Communications Committee

Will Darby announced the NDCC web site was being replaced with a streamlined version focused on candidates, fundraising and increasing NDCC membership.

Candidate Recruitment Committee

Rob Johnson registered for the Board of Education election. Marty Jack registered for the Ward 9 Alderman election. Tom Kelly, a Democrat, registered for the open Fire Commissioner seat.

Derek Thibeault congratulated the committee for finding candidates, and noted the Republicans could not find candidates for all of the races. This meeting curtails the Candidate Recruitment Committee for 2023.

Get 'Em Elected Committee

Susan Elberger reminded those present of a candidate meeting following the city committee meeting with candidate guidance.

Announcements

Joanne St. John reminded the committee the Mayor's campaign office is open for municipal Democratic candidates.

The Get 'Em Elected committee is working with the NHDP to generate walk lists. It was noted candidates have different walk lists than volunteers.

Derek Thibeault reminded the committee of the NHDP State Convention on Sept. 30, where Nashua delegates will be sitting together. The Nashua delegates were confirmed on the NHDP list, but many reported not to have received convention information.

Adjourn

Susan Elberger made the motion to adjourn at 8:15.