

# NDCC City Committee Minutes

July 13, 2023

## Attendees

### Exec Board

Derek Thibeault  
Susan Elberger  
Will Darby  
Teresa Moler  
Jim Ravan  
Jason Telerski

21 additional city committee members

## Call to Order

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

## Opening

Derek Thibeault welcomed members and thanked them for attending.

He reminded members of the upcoming election and the need for everyone to help by talking to friends and fellow Democrats. Derek reported that the Ward 4 State Representative race to replace David Cote, who resigned, was to be held during the Mayoral primary.

Derek reminded the members the NDCC BBQ fundraiser is the following weekend, and Joyce Craig, Cinde Warmington, and Mayor Donchess were all expected to attend. Signup Genius was emailed to attendees to volunteers for food. He also requested attendees to bring chairs. The event was planned for Saturday, even with a chance of rain. It was reported that in 2022 117 tickets were sold with 99 attendees.

The Executive Board and attendees introduced themselves.

## Approval of Minutes

Susan Elberger made a motion to approve the May City Committee meeting minutes. Approved on a voice vote.

## Treasurer Report

No report, Manny Espitia was not present.

# General Good and Welfare

## State Senate Update

Sen. Rosenwald was not present

## State House Update

Rep. Laura Telerski presented the State House of Representatives update, and said that a few bad bills had passed during the last session day since the Democrats were missing a few members. Overall, it was an excellent session with Democrats blocking a number of bad bills and passing some good bills. The Democratic Caucus was planning to hold training sessions on filing bills for the 2024 session.

She also reported the DVCC is helping with 3 special elections for State Representative around the state, including Enfield, Northwood/Nottingham, and Nashua Ward 4. The Northwood/Nottingham election would be a pickup for the Democrats, Hal Rafter is the Democratic candidate, and help was requested with canvassing. The primary is set for August 1st and the General Election for September 19. She reported negative campaigning had been started by the Republicans.

## City Update

Alderman Derek Thibeault presented the city update report. He stated the budget was passed a couple of weeks prior on a unanimous vote. It was approximately 4% larger than the prior budget.

Derek Thibeault reported Nashua issues in more detail.

He also stated the Alderman had recently voted on the question of prohibiting profane and obscene language at city meetings, which passed. Some people raised a free speech question regarding this issue.

Derek Thibeault reported the Planning Board was reviewing a request for a casino at the old Sears location in the Pheasant Lane mall. The police department have expressed concern about enforcement since this location is on the border of Massachusetts, and the parking lot is located in that state.

Derek Thibeault reported the Mayor's campaign opened an office in the old Telegraph building, and thanked the mayor for allowing the NDCC to use it for campaigning.

Mayor Jim Donchess stated the final date for the appeal of the Asphalt plant was July 14, and an appeal was expected.

Alderman Ernie Jette stated Republican-leaning independent alderman recognized the recently passed budget was very lean.

Derek Thibeault reported the city energy department had reduced the cost of Nashua Community Power below Eversource once again.

Jim Donchess stated the NH Legislature had increased education support for the city, to the benefit of the city, and much of this was associated with free and reduced price lunches.

Rep. Susan Elberger stated the Hillsborough County budget passed at the end of June, and the County will need to rebuild the jail within 5 years. A compromise was reached on the County budget to draw down some surplus and also increase taxes to meet increased costs, but leave some surplus for future jail construction funding.

Rep. Marc Plamondon stated the Police force are facing difficulty keeping officers due to changes in pension and pay, and are leaving mostly for private security companies and federal organizations.

## Guest Presentations

### Jay Bowie - New Hampshire Young Democrats

Jay Bowie described the Nashua Young Democrats as the only organization in the state with a goal of recruiting, training and electing young Democrats under age 40. He stated they also engage college and high school Democratic groups. A new board had been recently elected, and a summer BBQ fundraiser was planned for July 12. They are holding another fundraiser at Cisco Brewery in Portsmouth on August 23 from 6 to 8 PM.

Jay Bowie described some key issues for young people in New Hampshire are property taxes driving up rents, cannabis legislation and gun violence.

### Libby Masek

Libby Masek stated she had decided against running for Ward 9 alderman, and would consider running again in 2 years.

### Ocsar Lopez

Oscar Lopez stated he was planning a Latin festival in Greeley park from 12 to 6PM on August 27 with a well known salsa band headlining the show. He stated his organization is looking for sponsorships for the show. Oscar reminded the committee members that Nashua is a welcoming city, and the only city in the state putting on a Latin festival. However, a city ordinance limits volume at Greeley park that will impact the authentic flavor of the show. He has made a request to the city parks department to augment the city sound system, and reported his changes are covered by his organization's business insurance.

Alderman Jette stated the jurisdiction for this request is the board of public works, which the Mayor chairs.

Mayor Donchess stated a city ordinance passed by the Alderman requires the use of the city sound system, but the system wants the festival to occur.

# Committee Reports

## Fundraising

Derek Thibeault stated the BBQ is the current fundraising focus, and the executive board would be setting the date for the Gala shortly after the BBQ.

## Communications

Jim Ravan presented the communications committee report and stated the landing pad was established on the new hosting site - Green Geeks. He reminded the executive board to provide bios for the new website.

Derek Thibeault stated NDCC communication is important including social media, email and messaging.

## Candidate Recruitment

Derek Thibeault presented the candidate recruitment committee report and stated candidates for alderman are still being sought in wards 1 and 9. He also stated a potential fifth board of education candidate had been identified, as well as a possible candidate for the Ward 4 special election for state representative.

Laura Telerski stated she was hosting a 603Forward community meetup on August 3rd, similar to the one hosted by Alicia Gregg on July 2nd. This meeting will present topics on learning to run for office, and focus on candidates for ward moderators, clerks and selectmen.

It was announced that a candidate is identified for ward 8 moderator.

It was stated that fire commissioner Garant was not planning for reelection, so the NDCC may need to identify a new candidate.

## Get 'Em Elected

Susan Elberger presented the Get 'Em Elected committee report and stated she is planning to meet with candidates in the following week. The meeting will provide candidates how to campaign including working on literature. She stated the committee is looking for volunteers to mentor, and is planning to coordinate with the communication committee on outreach.

## New Business

Mayor Jim Donchess introduced Patrick Conway, a UVM graduate living in Amherst. He is planning to open office space to city Democrats, and a work session to clean out the space is planned for the following Tuesday. His campaign has leased the space for four months. Mayor Donchess stated NHDP started charging for Vote Builder in 2023.

Marc Plamondon stated he met with the Nashua police chief. He was concerned about bail reform and the inability to hold violent criminals. He also stated the police chief had discussed recent occurrences of vehicles driving in the wrong direction on the FE Everett Turnpike, and that funding might be available to make ramp changes to help address this problem.

## Announcements

No additional announcements were provided.

## Adjournment

Susan Elberger made a motion to adjourn at approximately 9:00, which was approved on a voice vote.