

NDCC Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2023

Attendees

Derek Thibeault

Susan Elberger

Manny Espitia

Will Darby

Tereesa Moler

Jim Ravan

Jason Telerski

+ [20 City Committee members](#)

Call to Order

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

Opening

Chairman's Message

Derek Thibeault thanked the members for help with the upcoming election. He noted many Soucy signs were starting to be placed illegally throughout the city. The At-Large Board of Aldermen candidate forum was well attended the prior Thursday. All Democratic candidates were in attendance. The Republican candidate Sean Rogers attended and stated people "should follow his Holidays", and assimilate to "his culture". The other Republican Alderman-at-Large candidate, Alex Coumo, did not attend.

Derek Thibeault reminded the members of the Ward alderman candidate forum on the following Thursday, and asked members to attend. He also noted only a few weekends remained before the election, and more canvassers were needed, as few had attended the prior Sunday.

Finally, Derek Thibeault thanked John McAllister for allowing the NDCC to hold the meeting on Monday.

Introductions

The City Committee members introduced themselves, and a sign in sheet was passed around.

Approval of Minutes

Derek Thibeault made a motion to accept the August, 2023 committee meeting minutes, which passed on a voice vote.

Derek Thibeault made a motion to accept the September, 2023 committee meeting minutes, which passed on a voice vote.

Treasurer Report

Manny Espitia provided the Treasurer Report and stated the city committee has \$20,076 in the bank. The committee had spent over \$21,000 to date and raised over \$31,000. He stated the committee will be able to pay its bills.

Manny Espitia thanked Laura Telerski and the Gala team for putting together a great event with good turnout, although noted we could have fit more attendees. It was stated the early cutoff worked well to avoid paying for unattended seats, and the Gala was fortunate to feature Congresswoman Kuster who was able to attend due to a last minute schedule break.

Manny Espitia reminded the committee of the need to start working on fundraising for 2024, and asked the members to donate now to avoid a scramble for funds when they need to be spent. No 'Donate Every Month' signups were received at the Gala, but some new donors from the prior city committee meeting.

Manny Espitia stated he was working on the campaign finance filing due on Wednesday.

General Good and Welfare

Special Presentation - Matty Gregg

Alicia Gregg mentioned the Gregg's radio show, and stated Democrats with important messages could come onto the show. Contact Alicia Gregg if interested.

Matty Gregg presented an "Election Day Playbook" plan and suggested coordinated campaign materials with messaging for down ballot candidates, including images and sample ballots. Alicia Gregg said holding candidate signs comes across as "white noise". Teresa Moler suggested texting sample ballots to voters. Matty Gregg said the QR code displayed had analytics attached to track access in real-time, and that the Gregg's were planning to pay to have the signs printed and host the website.

Jason Telerski stated he would post a Sign-up Genius for visibility sign-ups, but expressed concern about the dearth of signups. Joanne St. John stated the largest needs were in wards 1, 5 and 9.

State Senate Update

Sen. Cindy Rosenwald was not present. Rep. Laura Telerski stated the LSR filing period was over, and veto day was set for October 26.

State House Update

Rep. Mike Pederson stated the 10 year highway plan was being discussed by the Executive Council. He also noted the Democrats hoped to overturn the Burgess Power Plant bill vetoed by Gov. Sununu on veto day.

City Update

Alderman Derek Thibeault talked about the homeless issue in Nashua, and stated the area near the railroad tracks required maintenance, which necessitated dislodging the homeless residing in the area. They were being relocated to a city owned parking lot. A city representative, Bobby Bagley, was visiting on most days to determine the needs of the unhoused staying in the location. Derek Thibeault stated some Ward 7 residents were unhappy about the location the city had chosen to relocate the unhoused. He further stated a cold weather shelter was opening on December 1st.

Tim Sennott stated the Mayoral candidate Soucy had voiced criticism of the city's plans at the forum at Dr. Crisp Elementary School, and he planned to "wipe out" the unsheltered encampment. Tim Sennott suggested leading with compassion. Alicia Gregg stated the relocation was intended as a temporary solution, and not intended to draw additional unsheltered individuals to the area. She stated there was no explicit drug use on site. She also stated a pregnant woman was among the unsheltered, and Alderman Tom Lopez was helping to locate housing for her. The city received very little forewarning prior to the property owner evicting people from the location, which forced the city to scramble to identify an alternative location. Mike Pederson reminded the committee the Mohawk Tannery apartments were planned to be discussed at the Planning Board on Thursday.

Committee Reports

Fundraising Committee

Christal Lloyd was not present. Derek Thibeault stated the committee was looking for a Spring fundraising event, perhaps in late winter or early spring, such as a breakfast event. Laura Telerski noted the Cheshire County Democrats charged \$75 for a spaghetti dinner, and therefore the Gala was reasonably priced.

Derek Thibeault reminded attendees of the "Do You DEM - Donate Every Month" campaign.

An audience member asked how the money raised was spent by the committee. Derek Thibeault answered the money is spent promoting Nashua Democratic candidates and was not spent on state-wide or federal candidates.

An audience member asked if the committee had published fundraising goals. Manny Espitia answered the committee had not set those goals yet, but planned to set them following the election.

Communications Committee

Will Darby stated the new NDCC website had been posted, and a calendar would be introduced shortly.

Election Management Committee

Susan Elberger stated she was working with candidates up and down the ballot. Canvassing was continuing every week, and most canvassers were repeats from week to week.

A question from the audience was asked if the NDCC had considered phone banking in addition to door-to-door canvassing. Manny Espitia answered this had not started yet, but was better than nothing. Ben Clemons suggested targeting apartment complexes in Wards 4 and 8 with phone banks since they cannot be canvassed in person.

The committee members were reminded of the Ward Alderman candidate forum on October 19 and the Board of Education candidate forum on October 26. Both events would be held at the library starting at 6:30.

A candidate meet and greet is being held at Caribbean Breeze organized by Vengerflutta Smith on October 25th. It was suggested these events be posted to the website.

Patrick Conway is publishing canvassing dates to Mobilize, and canvassing was commencing every weekend day at 10AM.

The first NDCC mailer was sent to the printer for proofs on the day of the meeting. Colin Van Ostern was planning to help canvass on October 29m and Cinde Warmington was planning to canvass on October 21.

Announcements

The Brookline Democrats announced they were holding a spaghetti dinner fundraiser at 5:30 on Saturday, October 21.

Adjourn

Manny Espitia made a motion to adjourn at 9:0-3, which passed on a voice vote.