

LIVONIA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2009

Call to Order

President Pat O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

Pat announced that the scheduled speaker John Walsh could not be present because he has the flu. He then introduced Schoolcraft College Trustee and Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt.

Presentation and Q & A by Joan Gebhardt

Joan first gave an update on Schoolcraft College and her role as trustee. Schoolcraft College involves six school districts. It is one of the few community colleges in the country that serves more than one school district and county. It is financially stable due to the conservative economic approach of its president. Excellent revenue is realized through lease of the property/buildings in College Park. The Schoolcraft property was purchased in the early 60's when it was affordable.

There are 7 non-partisan trustees who work together very well. This is a volunteer position filled by dedicated people with a passion for education and student success.

Next Joan reviewed her new role as Wayne County Commissioner. She was surprised at how large the county business and administration was, filling several office buildings in Detroit. They are looking for ways to save money and are exploring purchasing buildings vs. leasing them. The Guardian building has been purchased for this purpose. It is undecided what county functions will be moved into the Guardian building. An examination of the costs must be conducted.

The credit rating of the county was recently downgraded although the county budget is in balance. However, since the city of Detroit is in such financial ruin, it has affected the credit rating of the county. On the positive side, the bond rating is still AA which is very good.

Election of Officers for 2009 - 2010

Alan Baum introduced the slate of candidates for election. They are:

- Pat O'Neil for President
- Bob Moreo for Operational Vice-President
- Richard Thomas for Political Vice-President
- Linda Curry for Treasurer
- Linda Lieder for Secretary

Since none of the candidates were opposed, they were unanimously elected. Richard Miga made the motion and it was seconded by Ivan Meyette.

By-Laws Review

Pat introduced a discussion of the by-laws to be voted on at the next meeting.

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Joan Gebhardt began a discussion regarding timely notification of meetings. It concluded with a motion by Joan Gebhardt to include at least a 48-hour notice to members. It was seconded by Richard Miga and passed by voice vote.

Discussion regarding wording about the PAC did not arrive at an agreement among the members and was tabled for later review.

Joan suggested adding authority of members to form and endorsement committee. Pat advised that it is already a right of the members and authority need not be granted in the by-laws.

Richard Miga moved that the language "unless they choose to pay dues" be deleted from line 24. It was seconded by Linda Curry and approved by voice vote.

Richard moved to add a requirement for an endorsement committee. It was seconded by Paulette Meyette and approved through a hand-count vote.

Many thanks are extended to Bob Moreo and his committee for our new by-laws.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Linda Curry, Secretary