

Minutes: New Kent Democrats Party Meeting – 1/11/2016

Attendees: Donna Friend, Linda Friend, Herb Jones, Charles Moss, Christine Williams, Bob Jeremiah, Alease Christian, Selena Gray, Houston Gray, Susan Moon

- Election Expenses
 - Donna gave Alease a bill for the sample ballots from Printer's Mark for payment
 - Printer's Mark by far gave us the best deal we've had in quite a while
 - Should have had more sample ballots? We did not distribute what we printed and we met our legal obligation to provide sample ballots
- Nominations for Officers
 - Four officers and a representative
 - Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer
 - Donna Friend currently serves as the New Kent Party Chair and the rep to the 7th district.
 - If Donna is unable to attend she is not allowed to send a substitute representative
 - Means that if she can't go to the district meetings no one goes
 - Donna talked to Julia Taylor – she's ill and couldn't be here – she'd like to see someone else fulfill her position – no access to email at home as easily as she used to – doesn't feel comfortable getting them out as quickly
 - Donna proposed eliminating the position of Secretary (eliminates the possibility of a board deadlock) – Donna ran it by Abby Easter who said there's nothing that prevents this – no bylaws passed to Donna & nothing she can find – Herb says he can't recall anything from during his tenure
 - As courtesy Donna sends a copy of her summary that she sends out to the email distribution list to Abby Easter
 - Susan moved that we eliminate the position of secretary for the calendar year 2016
 - Seconded by Linda
 - Unanimous vote in favor
 - Donna reviewed role as representative
 - Once a month meeting at Grapevine in Henrico in private room
 - No food included
 - First meeting is 24th of January
 - Meetings always on Sunday evenings at p.m. – Donna thinks it's frequently the 4th Sunday of the month
 - No need to be an officer to serve in that capacity
 - Quarterly meetings rotate around 7th district
 - Herb says he'd be interested in serving as the rep – Bob also expressed interest depending on when the meetings are
 - Officer positions for next year

- Donna asked if there was anyone not willing to serve in their current position
 - Alease has no problem with someone else taking the position – she stepped up before because we didn’t have anyone to do it
 - Current balance on checking account is \$2,067 and change minus the check she just wrote to Printer’s Mark, so basically about \$1900
 - Donna wants to do a fundraiser this year, would like to see books moved to electronic records
 - Susan expressed willingness (with her husband’s assistance) to serve as treasurer
 - Herb had previously expressed a willingness to serve as treasurer
 - Donna & Christine willing to continue serving in their respective roles
 - Elections to be held in March
- Identifying and reaching out to New Kent Democrats
 - Last meeting we talked about maybe putting together some events that might appeal to people who haven’t been willing to step forward and be identified as Democrats
 - Topics could include how to sign up for medical benefits, voter id, etc..
 - Herb proposed doing mailing to people the voter roles identify as strong dems, leaning dems, etc. to gauge interest
 - Donna agrees we need to do some advertising
 - Maybe even include a list of things Democrats have done in the past 50 years (GI Bill, Medicare, Social Security, 40 hour work week, etc.) – thank a Democrat
 - Estimated that there are 1300 Democrats in the county – Donna’s email distribution list is only about 98
 - Donna will go back to see if she still has or can get VAN access for all of New Kent so that we can send mailing to identified democrats
 - Donna tossed out idea of doing a rural route mailing to everyone in the county – Donna will look into cost of doing a rural route mailing
 - What about doing a NK County Democrats Facebook page
 - Bob pointed out the challenge that it can’t be abandoned (example of NK Republicans, which last had a post in August 2014)
 - Maybe make the tone of it right now a public service where we can distribute a lot of helpful information for members of the community

- Susan asked about getting advertising in the Chronicle – Donna indicated that it is very expensive – she tries to get our meetings listed in the Calendar of Events, but she has to remind them every month & invariably they don't include us
- Charles says Senior Connections at one of the local churches is very active & looking to reach out – see if we can get to them
 - A way of getting publicity may be for NK Democrats to sponsor some rides for Bay Transit
 - Bay Transit offers low cost (sometimes free) rides within the county
- Herb proposed finding out if Hillary or Bernie have campaign people within the state – maybe we could get one of them to come – Obama proved that you need to get grass roots support
- Susan proposed that we make sure food – light refreshments – is available when we do these

There will be no committee meeting in February we will resume with our normal monthly schedule on March 8th.

Officer elections will be held on March 8. Please email Donna Friend if you are interested in serving as either, Chair, Vice-Chair or Treasurer.