

Gloucester Democratic City Committee
Monthly Meeting
January 14th, 2021
Via Zoom

26 Members and Guests signed in

Matt Murray, Chair opened the meeting at 7:00

Matt – Participants (Gloucester residents, registered Democrats) interested in becoming new members of the GDCC?

Martha Lazarus and Amanda () are interested in joining but would like to know more about the organization. Members weighed in: Matt, welcome. Liz Neumeier re elections – not endorsing candidates before primaries. Help in elections post primaries. Host headquarters in normal times. Public Service activities. Karen Bell produces Democratic Dialogue which can be viewed on CATV 1623 – good reference. Liz Murray – panels have been presented on key topics such as Activism, Health care, the Press, over the past winter/spring. Martha and Amanda felt better informed but deferred putting their names in to join officially.

Minutes of last General Meeting. Liz Murray mistakenly summarized the Minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting in December. Bad call because we had two particularly good Special Speakers in November, Congressman Seth Moulton and Amy Grunden from the Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). I am including the Minutes for the November meeting in the circulating email because both speakers are worth repeat attention. (ECM).

Treasurer's report: Lacey Rose.

Checking -		
Contributions-	148.85	
Debits -	693.77	(6 mos of storage unit; last scholarship check)
Interest	.04	
Checking Total -	3019.74	
Savings-	5030.04	
Grand Total -	8049.78	

Democratic Dialogue Report, Karen Bell. The December 2020, presentation was of Jeremy McKeen interviewing Governor's Councillor and Gloucester Democratic resident, Eileen Duff. Karen felt that Eileen brought a lot of information about the Governor's Councillors' roles that are not evident in news reports. We should highlight this and other DD productions going forward. In normal times, the DD topic was often double teamed with the presentation at the Monthly Meeting which is not possible under current circumstances.

Public Service Report – Mary Kingsley. Mary reported on the set up for the MLK Days of Service on January 15th and 16th. Inside work on Friday the 15th; outside work on Saturday the 16th, which turned out to be a very stormy morning. Results for Open Door notwithstanding which Mary will report on at the upcoming Executive Committee meeting.

Dan Epstein updated plans for a clean up. He suggested March 13th. Lacey Rose indicate that free yellow refuse bags could be picked up thru the DPW office on Poplar Street. Suggested a call ahead.

Views of Members about the Election and the Events of January 6th:

Mary Kingsley discussed the concept of “hard cases make bad law”. Mary (with a decade of defense law with Mass Defenders a while ago) wondered how you could approach someone like Sidney Powell who generated negatives against anyone who opposed the Trump position on the outcome of the election. Cite to *New York Times v. Sullivan*, *USSCT*, 70 ish. Where Selma official claimed to be harmed by characterization of him by NYT. Opinion: (in part) you have to prove malice on the part of the public figure in his/her actions. Mary K.: Sidney Powell is a public figure. Liz Neumeier, also Esq., no she’s not!

Addressing the mob at the Capitol. We still have laws against sedition which can handle some or all of these actions.

How to deal with actions of the social media and the internet. Private company. No criteria. Facts straight??

Mary K sum: hard cases in sight. Hopefully not leading to bad law!

Bob Rutchik: We came close to murder on January 6th. Noose hanging in yard. Shouting, “Hang Mike Pence”. Nazis and white supremacists racing through the Capitol Halls. Breaking into offices. Bob – a retired DC federal employee, veteran, close follower of government and politics, still processing.

Liz Neumeier: Atty and past GDCC Ward 4 Chair, veteran of numerous elections ops. Heard on the street: Sara Gideon who did not defeat Susan Collins was left with \$14 million remaining after the election.

Liz’s advice – talk to people. Individual conversations at the grass roots level. Don’t waste time on folks not willing to talk/listen/interact.

Impressed with Stacey Abrams organizing abilities in GA racking up wins in Presidential, Senatorial races. [ECM But our Friend

Ms. Taylor Green is Rep from No. Georgia. Caution, not a detraction from Ms. Abrams amazing accomplishments.]

Frank Garrison: We need someone to get the job done!

Liz Murray: What resulted with this mob is that all of the groups (polite term) that Southern Poverty Law Center has dealt with separately, have come together.

Dan Epstein: is a liberal. He is at home with Joe Biden/Kamala Harris as President/ Vice President. Wants the 28K people of Gloucester to see what that means among real people. Wants to improve outreach among people of Gloucester. For example, expanding our scholarship awards and other activities.

Jen Holmgren: Thinks back to election night 2016, how disappointing (not strong enough word). Is grateful for the feeling of stability post Biden/Harris election, Ossoff and Warnock.

Matt Murray: wonders what is coming up next with Jaimie Harrison as DNC Chair. Watch that. Matt concerned about unspent funds in Gideon/Collins race. Also concerned about the lack of opportunity to canvass in this election which he feels is a key tool in winning elections. Of course, covid made that impossible this time around. Matt was concerned about our not holding seats in the House or gaining more in the Senate. What was that about?

Matt: other observations: Nazis (? And??) pushed the big lie that Trump won the election. How to address that going forward. But... we had the largest voter turnout in history. Georgia, "a lasagna of wonderful". [Lincoln? Everyone is quoting him these days.]

The meeting ended at 9 pm. ECM. Need calendar updates. Harder to come by in the era of Zoom and cancellations. 2/1/21