



**February 11, 2018**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome/Organizational Items:**

- Ralph Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm
- Quorum – met
- Treasurer’s Report: Balance \$1291. \$440 received in dues - \$5 donation. \$350 paid for crab feed. \$81 for City of Benicia Insurance. \$75 for room rental at Benicia Library. Membership fees are due now - \$20/annually.  
Membership numbers: 83
- Minutes: Minutes for January and February will be sent to membership for review.

**New Business:**

**350 Bay Area Group** – Kathy and Ralph have attended meetings re Climate change legislation.

**Open government commission** – members needed for ad hoc committee to review Benicia’s campaign practices. Applications for the ad hoc committee may be found on the City’s website or at the City Attorney’s office. A committee description press release and application link is also provided in City Manager, Lori Tinfow’s 2/11/19 newsletter

**Kathy Kerridge and Constance Beutel – Good Neighbor Steering Committee** – wrap up of the \$14M settlement goes before Council on Tuesday, February 19. Distribution of funds that were allocating but were not spent will be discussed. Funding is for air fence monitors, community monitoring, Sustainable Solano, water use, and water infrastructure improvement are included in the allocation.

**Amy Hartman – Greenbelt Alliance Solano County**

Discussed the county wide park district issue. Bob Berman and Dan Smith have been working on this issue for 25 year. Bill 365 passed in 10/17. Will be on the 2020 ballot. Plan will be sent to the public for feedback.

Prop 68 – park bond bill. Amy distributed an article she wrote: *Why Parks Access is an Equity Issue*. Amy is planning to lead yoga hikes and invited membership to join in.

**Monica Brown** provided input and suggested letters to the editor on the county park district issue. Board meeting on 2/26. Ralph pointed out that tax payers already pay for the land which has limited access. Dan Smith added that there are four county parks scattered around the county and a 10K acre area protected against development – 1100 acres is currently available in Lynch Canyon.

**Acknowledgement of elected officials:**

**Supervisor Monica Brown** District 2 Solano County Supervisor – is doing a monthly newsletter, anyone interested in receiving the newsletter should sign up through Monica’s website.

**Mayor Elizabeth Patterson** – initiated interest in city council – tobacco ordinance – specifically for multi-family residences. City is embarking on a second goal setting process – March 30. Community members invited to attend. Mayor’s open office hours – Monday 6-7 at City Hall.

**Councilman Steve Young** – Campaign practices ordinance – looking for people willing to work on it and bring it back to the council (make more difficult to allow outside money to influence Benicia for elections). Information will be on the website. Acknowledged Black History month and thanked the panel participants.

## **Black History Month Program:**

**Moderators:** Gethsemane Moss (former Benicia School Board candidate) and K. Patrice Williams (founder-Black Woman Organized for Political Action). Gethsemane shared a powerful poem she had written about her experience as a black woman in today's culture.

## **Panel Members:**

*Dr. Terrye Davis* – Dr. Davis was unable to attend due to prior commitment. Her bio was read by Gethsemane Moss.

*Dr. Zoe Bartholomew* – Gethsemane read Dr. Bartholomew's bio which includes, among her many outstanding accomplishments, membership on the Benicia Open Government Commission.

Zoe presented the history of her professional career and community involvement in Solano County and encouraged others to get and stay involved.

*Viola Robertson* – Patrice read Viola's bio which includes her 39- years as Executive Director of CAC.

Viola gave a presentation on Madame C.J. Walker a pioneer in black hair care and cosmetics.

*Novonna Hunt* – Patrice read a bio on Novonna, noting that during her lengthy career, she spent many years working in Human Resources in Solano County and is a member of the City of Benicia Human Services Board.

Novonna provided the inspiring and insightful story of her 50 years as a member of the black community and community at large in Benicia.

Presentations were followed by a question and answer period. Panel members were presented with flowers and notes of thanks and appreciation from PDB.

## **Announcements/Events:**

- **March 8, 2019 – 7-9pm, Arts Benicia Gallery. Next PDB meeting open to members and the community.** Celebration of International Women's Day. PDB will host **2020: Women Stepping Up in Benicia**, a women's forum moderated by Kari Birdseye. A panel of four politically active women will make presentations and engage in Q & A. Panel members: Susannah Delano, Executive Director of Close the Gap, CA; Linda Escalante, Lobbyist for NRDC, Cora Young, Legislative Aid to Congressman Mike Thompson and a surprise panelist TBA.
- **March 11, 2019** – Town Hall Meeting featuring Congressman Mike Thompson at the Benicia Senior Center, 7:00 pm.

## **Wrap up/Announcements**

- Next meeting: Friday, March 8, 7:00 pm Arts Benicia,
- Adjourned: 8:45pm
  
- Submitted by: Maggie Kolk, Secretary

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