

progressive  
DEMOCRATS  
of Benicia

**Membership Meeting  
July 12, 2018**

**Agenda**

**Welcome/Organizational Items**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Chair, Ralph Dennis**

- Quorum – met
- Treasurer’s Report: presented by PDB Treasurer Kathy Kerridge.
  - No checks outstanding
  - \$23 in donation, \$200 in dues and one \$125 donation to cover the cost of room rental Checking Account Balance: \$1263.94
- Approval of minutes for June 18 – Noted by Ralph Dennis that a revision must be made. Revised minutes will be posted on the website for review and approval at August meeting.

**Announcements**

- Solano Co. District 2/Stephen Hallett – reported on the Solano Co. Commission on Aging.
- Carquinez Patriotic Resistance – has not met recently. No information to present. Typically meets twice a month.
- Paint Congress Blue: Sunday, August 5, 3:00 to 7:00 – 475 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland - Free street party. Art galleries will be open, music, and other events. Swing Left East Bay, Working America, Flip the 14, Sister District Project CA 13, Open Progress and Indivisible East Bay + Berkeley will be there with info and hands-on opportunities... postcard writing, phone banking, text banking, district canvassing, voter registration and more. Speakers including Central Valley House candidates.
- League of Women voters – October 3 – Candidates night – mark your calendars. Gayle Vaughan suggested a visit to the League of Women Voters website.  
[www.leagueofwomenvoters.org](http://www.leagueofwomenvoters.org).
- Benicia ISO – Kathy Kerridge provided an update on the group’s work.
  - Recap of last week’s meeting and the results of the council vote last month.

- Draft ordinance prepared based on Contra Costa and Richmond ordinances with the addition of Emergency Preparedness
- Proposal was that Council would refer to staff to start working on Benicia ordinance – three council members Schwartzman, Hughes and Campbell – voted against. Mayor Patterson and Vice Mayor Young voted to proceed with drafting Benicia’s own ordinance. The council will revisit after the November election. Mayor Patterson made a motion to bring it back to the table. Kathy and the ISO working group are asking that folks attend the council meeting on Tuesday, 7/17. Ask that the ordinance move forward now with the review. The vote will be to discuss it and proceed to rehear it. Please send an email if you can’t attend.
- Kathy also mentioned that Air Watch Bay Area shows real time air monitoring information and we want to get this for Benicia. Check out the website: [www.airwatchbayarea.org](http://www.airwatchbayarea.org)

### School Board Discussion: Panel Discussion

Panel members presented statements:

- **Celeste Monette** – current School Board member, not running again. Mom of two children 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Role of board member is to support and grow the education of the children on the community.
- **Laura Ruark** – 13<sup>th</sup> year as a teacher, all but 3 in Benicia. Relationship between school board and teachers is very strained. Laura is the PAC Chair. The PAC is hosting a meeting on July 23 to meet with potential candidates.
- **Jenny Manzo** – Benicia Arts 4 All. Arts advocate community group. Committee for Arts Master Plan. Partnered with CA Alliance for Arts Education – Promote and support arts curriculum from pre-K through high school. Looking for a candidate who supports arts education.
- **Sheri Zada** – candidate for school board. 4 year Benicia resident. Volunteer in the schools in So. Cal. Foundation committee raising funds for technology; worked at junior college, alumni special events coordinator. Librarian in elementary school in So. Cal. Former union representative. Robert Semple – volunteers in the garden. Organized March for our Lives. No hidden agenda, never ran for office. Working as an advocate for all children. Read statement.
- **Paula Schnese** – parent of BUSD students. 5-year resident of Benicia. Expressed dissatisfaction with current superintendent for a variety of reasons ranging from block scheduling to school start times to lack of interest in having parental involvement.

Q & A – Audience and panel discussion.

**Flipping District 10:**

Steve Young framed the conversation by giving background on incumbent Jeff Denham and Democratic candidate Josh Harter. Discussion ensued about actions PDB can pursue.

**Agenda items tabled or not addressed:**

- Speaker: Lynette Henley, California Democratic Party (CDP) Region 2 Director. Lynette was unable to attend.
- PDB Endorsement committee and process for November races and candidates.

**Wrap up/Announcements**

- Next meeting: August 14<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday), Benicia Library.
- Future meetings scheduled: September 11, October 9, and November 13; each at the Benicia Library, Dona Benicia Room, 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn: 8:45pm

**Submitted by:**

Maggie Kolk

Secretary, Progressive Democrats of Benicia

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