Democratic State Committee Meeting - Framingham
February 8, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Massachusetts Democratic Party Chairman Gus Bickford called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and recognized Carol Aloisi to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Bickford called for a motion to suspend the roll call and for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 14 meeting. Both motions passed. The Chair welcomed everyone to Framingham and recognized State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Secretary of State William Galvin, Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan, gubernatorial candidate Bob Massie, State Senator Karen Spilka, Lieutenant Governor Candidate Quentin Palfrey. The Chair congratulated Framingham on its new designation as a city and recognized its first mayor, Yvonne Spicer.

Mayor Spicer welcomed committee members to Framingham and spoke of her time at Framingham High School as an educator and administrator. Mayor Spicer gave a special thanks to DSC member Norma Shulman for helping to elect candidates and helping the community.

The Chair proposed a motion to suspend the rules to allow Gubernatorial candidate Setti Warren to speak. Warren addressed the Committee.

The Chair recognized Framingham High School Principal Carolyn Banach. Principal Banach thanked the students of the Framingham High School Democrats and the Gay/Straight Alliance that helped to organize the meeting.

The Chair recognized DSC member Norma Shulman and Parwez Wahid. Shulman thanked Framingham Democrats Chair Beverly Hugo and the Framingham Democratic Town Committee Hospitality Committee as well as local volunteers, the school staff, and the Massachusetts Democratic Party team who helped to set up the meeting.

The Chair requested a moment of silence for family, friends, and fellow DSC members who passed away since the previous meeting: Mary Ann Simmons, mother of DSC member Bridget Simmons-Murphy; Former DSC member Stephanie Mercandetti; and former Massachusetts State Treasurer Robert Crane.

The Chair recognized Governor’s Councilors Marilyn Petitto Devaney and Robert Jubinville. The Chair then spoke about the petition that has been created to ask the Gaming Commission to investigate Steve Wynn’s donation to Charlie Baker and asked attendees to sign and share the petition. The Chair recognized Treasurer Paul Yorkis to give the Treasurer’s Report.

Treasurer Yorkis presented the Treasurer’s Report and announced that he would be providing assistance to local Democratic Committee Treasurers who felt that they needed assistance. Chairman Bickford fielded a question about the social media fundraising budget and discussed the increasing expectations for events through events such as the China Pearl Dinner and another event following election day in November. Chairman Bickford also answered a question concerning spending and finance events. The
Chair spoke about the 2016 audit as well as the hiring of independent auditor Mary Wong as a compliance officer for the party. The Chair then set forth a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, which passed.

The Chair discussed the success of the recent Democratic Campaign Institute held in Lowell and announced the Party would be hosting it again next January. The Chair also took the opportunity to thank Campaign Services Subcommittee co-chairs Joe Kaplan and Amanda Smith for helping to organize the DCI and invited them to discuss the event.

The Chair invited DNC members Melvin Poindexter, Kate Donaghue, and David O’Brien to give the DNC Members Report. David O’Brien spoke about the new report from the DNC Unity Commission. Kate Donaghue announced that the new interim DNC CEO is Massachusetts native Mary Beth Cahill. Mel Poindexter spoke about the current efforts of the DNC Rural Americans Caucus.

The Chair invited Massachusetts Democratic Party Executive Director Veronica Martinez to give the Convention Report. Executive Director Martinez spoke about delegate training opportunities as well as additional information concerning the convention.

The Chair welcomed members of the subcommittees to give a brief report on their respective work.

Karen Payne and Jason Palitsch gave the Field Services report in which they announced the success of the caucus training sessions and that there would be delegate training sessions closer to the convention.

In the Disabilities Outreach report, Cheryl Cummings and Bob Cassidy outlined their plan to assure that the convention will be accessible and asked that anyone with functional limitations or disabilities that require assistance at the convention let their chairs know. They also spoke about their desire to fill all disability seats on the State Committee and at the Convention.

Holly Ryan, LGBT subcommittee Chair, spoke about the transgender rights ballot question and announced the subcommittee’s intentions campaign for LGBTQ rights.

Rules Subcommittee Chair Bill Eddy announced that elections for the open State Committee seats will be held at the following DSC meeting in Lynn in April.

Christine Tron of the Veterans & Military Families Subcommittee spoke about the subcommittee’s new Facebook page and the importance of supporting our nation’s veterans and their families.

Brenda Brathwaite and Charlotte Golar-Richie, JFK Scholarship Subcommittee co-chairs, asked attendees to spread the word about the JFK Scholarship program to young people who may be interested. They also gave recognition to former Moakley Intern Lindsay Kenney and the Framingham High School students that helped with the meeting.

Carol Aloisi and Steve Owens gave the Credentials Subcommittee report in which they asked attendees to help process the results from caucuses and to attend additional caucuses if possible to help chairs with any questions they may have.

The Youth Services Report was given by the President of the Young Democrats of Massachusetts Matthew Murray, who spoke about the intentions of the Young Democrats and Youth Services Subcommittee to bring as many young people as possible to their local caucuses. Murray also called attention to a variety of meetings across the state devoted to getting young people involved.
Senior Outreach co-chairs Russ Ashton and Allyne Pecevich called attention to the efforts to involve members of the Cape Verdean community and other minority groups with the party and called attention to the successful election of a Brazilian-American to the Framingham City Council and a Haitian-American to the Brockton City Council.

Senator Jamie Eldridge and Martina Jackson gave the Public Policy report in which they announced their intention to hold a series of presentations across the state to inform constituents and activists about the platform of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, issues of importance on Beacon Hill, and what they can do to shape public policy on a local and statewide level.

The Chair gave the Resolutions report in which he announced a new commission that was proposed by DSC member Jeremy Comeau and stated the names of the members of the commission. The Chair also spoke about the new website of the Massachusetts Democratic Party.

The Chair announced that the next DSC meeting and Statewide Chairs meeting would both be in Lynn on April 24, 2018. In addition, there will be a Treasurers meeting in the same location on the same date. The following DSC meeting and Statewide Chairs meeting will not be held in the Third Congressional District due to the importance of the primary election in that district.

DSC member Sherwood Guernsey submitted a resolution from the floor asking for the DNC members to encourage DNC Chair Tom Perez to be increasingly visible to constituents. Chairman Bickford referred Guernsey to the Resolutions Subcommittee and to report back by the next meeting.

The Chair proposed a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned 8:32 p.m.