

Democratic Caucus– Reorganizational Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 29th, 2022 6:00pm
Champaign Public Library
Busey Bank Conference Room 222
200 W Green St., Champaign, IL 61820

1. Call to order

- a. Leah Taylor called to order at 6:09 pm

2. Approval of the Agenda

- a. Moved by Wayne Williams, second Jen Straub
 - i. Discussion: Wayne suggested moving “Announcements” to before “Other Business.” This was unanimously agreed upon.

3. Public Participation

- a. Steve Summers and Nina Lokshin were in attendance. Nina will be in the Nutcracker Ballet this weekend.

4. Nominations/Selection of Chair

- a. Jen Straub nominated Kyle Patterson.
 - i. Kyle accepted.
 1. Kyle says he has been on the board for 6 years, and has enjoyed the past two years of productivity with a cohesive caucus in the majority. He looks forward to accomplishing more as a team.
 2. Jenny Lokshin spoke about how much she has appreciated Kyle’s leadership, breadth of knowledge, and mentorship.
- b. Wayne Williams nominated himself.
 - i. Wayne accepted.
 1. Wayne withdrew his nomination.
- c. Kyle was unanimously agreed upon.

5. Nominations/Selection of Vice-Chair

- a. Kyle Patterson nominated Samantha Carter (who was unable to attend) and indicated that she has already accepted the nomination in a prior conversation.
 - i. Kyle noted that we have all been impressed with Samantha’s ability to bring her perspective and that of her constituents to the table– and that hers is a very needed voice on the board.
 - ii. Samantha was unanimously agreed upon.

6. Nominations/ Selection of Caucus Chair

- a. Chris Stohr nominated Leah Taylor.
- b. Leah spoke about the duties of the caucus chair—chairing the meetings, communicating about attendance, etc.
 - i. Leah Accepted the nomination.
 - ii. Leah was approved unanimously.

7. Nominations/Selection of Caucus Vice-Chair

- a. Jen Straub nominated Chris Stohr for Caucus Vice-Chair.
 - i. Chris accepted the nomination.
 - 1. There was a side conversation about the need for communication among the caucus.
 - ii. Chris Stohr was approved unanimously.

8. Nominations/Selection of Caucus Recording Secretary

- a. Chris Stohr nominated Jen Straub.
 - i. Jen Straub accepted the nomination.
 - ii. Jen was agreed upon unanimously.

9. Announcements

- a. Stephanie Fortado has offered a “Welcome to County Board Finance 101” for anyone who would like to attend. Attendance will be limited to OMA guidelines. Stephanie would also like to start training someone else to be the next finance chair.
- b. Beth Vanichtheeranont expounded on tax sales, HOA ponds, and beavers.
- c. Leah Taylor explained that this is not the meeting where we decide committee placements and nominations.
- d. Mike Ingram reminded everyone that Monday, December 5th at 7-9 at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Hall (1005 N Dunlap Avenue Savoy there will be a Democrat Victory Party catered by Black Dog.
- e. Chris asked about proclamations for outgoing board members and other county-wide electeds. Kyle will ask Megan Robison about that.
- f. Chris got an email today about the aquifer mapping helicopter. The engine is not available and there is another helicopter that is currently in Jackson, MS.
- g. Wayne Williams pointed out that County Board Democrats now enjoy a real majority. The voters have spoken and we have a very big responsibility to do good work.
- h. Mike Ingram asked for assigned seating during board meetings and asked that everyone be included in the “U” regardless of whether they have their children with them or not. Children and parents belong everywhere decisions are being made, and their visibility can inspire others to get involved despite barriers.
- i. Jenny Lokshin asked about the possibility of hiring childcare paid for by the county for board members or other county-wide folks who need childcare during meetings.

10. Other Business

- a. Kyle Patterson said that committee assignments would stand for folks who are continuing on, and if they want to change they will need to find someone willing to change. People coming on will generally take the committee assignment of the folks they replaced.
- b. Beth asked that all board members get a formal orientation. Steve Summers indicated that he agrees.

11. Next Biennial Caucus Meeting in 2024.

12. Adjournment at 6:56 pm