**Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club**

**2/13/2020 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Eric Dinowitz, Delores Dixon, Paul Ellis, Bruce Feld, Ellen Feld, Courtney Dastis-Galvin, Marty Galvin, Joe Gordon, Michael Heller, Patrick Hill, Helen Morik, Ivan Nedds, Eleanor Oliff, Aaron Stayman (via teleconference), Kate Theobald. Bill Weitz. Guest: Jeffrey Dinowitz. A quorum was present.

**Meeting Start**: 7:05 PM

* **Rent/Lease:** We are approaching the third year of a five-year lease. The rent is $1950/month (plus water, sewer + taxes). The rent has stayed flat for the first three years of the first year but the monthly rent will increase by $100 in years 3, starting next month, and 4 ($2050 and 2150).
* **Meeting Dates for March:** Executive Committee meeting will be on March 11th. Next full club meeting will be on March 25th.
* **Location of Club Meetings**: For most membership meetings, the clubhouse can fit the number of attending members. There is a cost associated with holding meetings elsewhere. The American Legion Hall is reasonable ($200) so if we think we will outgrow the club meeting space for a given meeting, that is an alternative. Tibbett Towers is not currently available due to the street noise/disruption of protestors in a past meeting. Other locations (i.e., houses of worship) are expensive.
* **Committees:**
	+ **Program Committee:** Ira ran last year. Need to ask Ira if he wants to chair again. Among the program committee’s functions is to look for guest speakers for different policy areas of interest each month (i.e., healthcare, election law, etc.) Ira, Helen Morik interested.
	+ **Healthcare Legislation Discussion Committee [new]:** New suggested committee; Michael will mention at February club meeting. Helen Krim, Helen Morik interested.
	+ **Publicity/PR Committee:** This committee would be doing basic press releases when we have big events or speakers and then work to get those messages out (via social medfia, etc.)
	+ **Outreach Committee:** Need to do outreach to different areas in our 81st AD catchment, especially in the Woodlawn area. Potentially try to table at events (i.e., Riverfest) and/or put together collateral (Eric has a draft of a palm card). Aaron Stayman, Eric Dinowitz, Delores Dixon interested.
	+ **NOT Renewing Bylaws Committee:** Great work done by the bylaws committee; Their work guides the way we run our meetings. There is an outstanding document with a summary of issues (including multiple opinions on various issues), which will be a useful to have as reference moving forward as bylaw issues arise. Multiple comments on how useful the committee’s work has been on how election meetings are run now.
	+ **NOT Renewing Technology Committee:** Work was excellent, and the website is in a great place – a testament to the committee’s work last year. Now we need to focus on content (photos, etc.) and updates (publicity committee can help with this). Moving forward, we need to focus on Twitter and Facebook presence (additional notes about Facebook below).
	+ **Facilities Committee:** Need to have a cleanup of the clubhouse space; Need to mop the floor. Eric volunteers. Discussion about space/giving up storefront – Point made that space is needed, particularly to access petitions at all hours of the day/night.
	+ **Discussion about committee for internal operations and/or planning for supporting Presidential campaign** (i.e., planning busses to Philadelphia); point was made that there are upcoming important Senate races, outside of presidential race. Helen, Aaron, Eric interested; Point that we should be focusing on primaries (Elliot Engel and Jeffrey Dinowitz) until June 23rd. Discussion about when planning action should start for senate and presidential races; conversation about the need to train people, especially young people, on how to walk with petitions (as it could help engagement with voters.)
* **Meeting Minutes:** Discussion on minutes. Recording secretary isn’t present for the conversation. While there are a variety of different approaches to taking minutes (including the level of detail), the case was made that our more detailed minutes can serve as a way for members who cannot attend the meetings to understand what’s going on, like a newsletter. Posting link on website would be easier than cutting and pasting into an email. Suggestion to put the link to the minutes in the email (which would lead to the minutes posted on the website). This is not technologically complex (we cannot send attachments in the mail system that we use but Aaron can easily upload to the site). No bylaw restrictions to doing this. Separate conversation about the content of the minutes – conversation tabled. Decision to move forward posting minutes on website starting next meeting.
* **Website and Facebook:**
	+ **New Official Facebook Page:** Aaron, Eric, Michael have credentials to Facebook; only we can post content here.
	+ **Old Official Facebook Page:** We are locked out of this (Tried to reclaim this from Facebook last year with no luck)
	+ **Facebook Group:** Aaron, Eric, and Michael can vet and allow people to the group
	+ **Website:**  Aaron, Eric, Michael have credentials to website; Aaron made request for photos for website, especially of people out there doing activities (we have Google upload for this 🡪 Aaron will send to Michael)
	+ Michael made suggestion to convene a small group to discuss Facebook – Aaron, Ellen, Ivan Duffy, Michael will follow up
* **Plan for February 18 Membership Meeting:** Michael will make comments on how we can unite to beat Trump; will have Treasurer’s Report (need to present an annual operating budget, including expenses and income); elected officials reports; discussion around petitioning (there are two sheets this year); Eric requested County Committee renewals.
* **Vice Presidents:**
	+ Bruce Feld, Parliamentarian and Operations
	+ Heidi Schwartz, VP for Fundraising
	+ Aaron Stayman, VP for Technology
* **Petitions**: Letter went out about petition pick-up; determined system for having executive committee members sign up to support Ivan Nedds in petition packets (petition, instruction sheet, and list of Democrats.) Each person will take petitions specific to her or his election district (ED). Each person will carry two sheets (one white, one green).
* **Streaming Meetings**: We did this twice last year and the quality came out good; Aaron offered to stream meetings on Facebook Live.

Meeting ended approximately 8:00 PM

*Minutes by Courtney Dastis-Galvin*