

WINFIELD TOWNSHIP DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING
November 15, 2023
Called to Order at 7:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Lynn Casey-Maher, Sheila Rutledge, Cindy Krecji, Dave Meier, Cyd Paulsen, Daniel Hebreard, Barry Dredze, Trish Flynn-Dredze, Greg Schwarze, Sadia Covert, Kevin Oyakawa, Suzanne Gagner, Erik Spande, Bob Brown, Rick Gieser, Jerome Hong, Jennifer Barron, Maury Goodman, Leah Goodman, Mike Tomasek for Qasim Rashid, Judi Lukas, Shawn Hackert, Angela Bergeson, Kathy Carrier, Mitch Adams, John Anderson, Susan Kasprovicz. On Zoom: Nina Kadera, Vince Hardt.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The September Minutes were presented by **Secretary Kasprovicz** in written format to the assembly and on the website. A motion to adopt the report was made by Judi Lukas and seconded by Cyd Paulsen. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Krecji reporting: There was no report at the October comedy night, so this report encompasses both September and October.

Sept Opening Balance	\$ 6,306.50
Donations	\$9,338.62
Expenses	\$7,178.37
Oct Closing Balance	\$8,466.75

The \$7k in expenses includes the cost for the banquet hall for the comedy night, as well as the check to Wayne Township for its half of the proceeds. It also includes normal website costs, etc.

A motion to adopt the report was made by Sheila Rutledge and seconded by Dave Meier. The motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT: **Chair Casey-Maher** reported on the October Comedy night. She stated that it was Sheila's idea, and Rick Gieser made it happen. The proceeds were split 50/50 with Wayne Township, and WTDO is giving a donation to Rick Gieser's campaign for District 6 Forest Preserve Commissioner as a thank you.

SPEAKERS:

DuPage County Forest Preserve President Dan Hebreard, running for reelection, gave a recap of his first term. Highlights include numerous solar panels on Preserve buildings, the renovation and expansion of Willowbrook Wildlife Center, and fiscal responsibility.

Rick Geiser, running for Forest Preserve District 6 Commissioner. He stated that he had visited forest preserves during COVID, so is very familiar with the territory. His civic involvement background includes having served as trustee in Carol Stream. He is eager to bring a fresh perspective to the Commission.

Both Hebreard and Gieser took questions, and there ensued a lively discussion of Forest Preserve issues.

Cyd Paulsen gave an "Invest in Kids" presentation, including a video. She pointed out that some wholesome names for organizations disguise their true intent, the School Voucher scheme being an example. She explained the scholarship issue, asking for \$755K for 9,000 students, using public tax dollars for private schools. She also reported on the Social Security Hearing for teachers.

DuPage County Board District 6 Member Greg Schwarze reiterated his credentials for reelection to the Board. He is Chair of the Human Relations Committee and serves on the Emergency, Judicial and Public Safety Committees. He is involved with intergovernmental business and collective bargaining. He outlined his numerous endorsements and asked for WTDO's continuing help in his campaign.

Judge Jennifer Barron, an appointee to Circuit Court Judicial District 18, Subcircuit 2, and running for elected retention, again explained her qualifications. She gave an in-depth explanation of the Court system and its makeup, how her appointment to the Court came about, and thanked Justice Linda Davenport and Judge Bonnie Wheaton for their mentorship.

Judi Lukas, currently serving a Winfield Township Board Member, and now running for DuPage County Coroner. A Union member for 30 years, she has worked at the Post Office and is actively working as a nurse. When she became a nurse, was no Union, then National Nurses United was formed. As a member at large, she was an activist. Mental Health will be a focus in her campaign as she approaches the position from a public health perspective.

Mike Tomasek, representing Qasim Rashid, a human rights lawyer running for US Congress in District 11. Rashid's issues include economic opportunity for all, guaranteed healthcare, climate justice, the codification of Roe v. Wade, Federal gun reform, expanded disability rights, affordable housing, and ending the opioid epidemic. His is a grassroots organization, eschewing corporate donations.

Sadia Covert, also running for Circuit Court Judicial District 18, Subcircuit 2. She is currently serving her second term on the DuPage County Board. She has been active with Veteran's events and resource fairs and putting on programs for seniors. She has diverse legal experience, with a major focus on foreclosure defense to save families from losing their homes.

John Anderson, running for Justice of the 3rd District Appellate Court. He has been a Circuit Court Judge since 2010, presiding mainly over chancery and commercial cases. He is a former Illinois Supreme Court law clerk, and Former Chairman of the Illinois State Court Rules Committee. He has received the endorsement of numerous groups, including a recent one from Robin Kelly.

Jackie Williamson, running for State Representative in District 47, challenging Amy Grant. She reiterated her qualifications, which include various human rights initiatives, including paid family leave. She stated that she still needs signatures and thanked WTDO for its canvassing efforts.

Maury Goodman talked about signature requirements.

COUNTY BOARD REPORT:

Sheila Rutledge, County Board Member, DuPage District 6, reported briefly. She said the Board passed the County Budget and discussed Committee work. She said they are still working on the single trash hauler issue. She thanked fellow County Board 6 member Greg Schwarze for his work on various initiatives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Democratic Women of DuPage County will hold its Legislative Dinner at Greek Islands in Lombard. Keynote Speakers: State Senator Karina Villa and State Representative Anne Stava-Murray.

WTDO's Holiday party will be at Cooper's Corner on Dec. 20 at 7:00 p.m. There will be no regular meeting.

Petitions due for PCs on November 27, rest due Dec. 7.

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ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Chair Casey-Maher and seconded by Sheila Rutledge. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.