

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2020

Scheduled: 2-4PM (**Actual meeting time:** 2:22-4:43PM)

Introductions – for the benefit of the new board members

Call to Order and Welcome: MWC President Dyana Forester

Roll Call: *Present:* Greg Bowen, Dena Briscoe, Robin Burns, Donna Brockington, Chuck Clay, Elizabeth Davis, George Farenthold, Daniel Fields, Dyana Forester, Stephen Frum, Djawa Hall, Herbert Harris, Ann Hoffman, Roxana Mejia, David Richardson, Wanda Shelton-Martin, Mike Spiller, Gina Walton, Andrew Washington, Lisa Blackwell-Brown. *Absent:* Jaime Contreras; Herb Harris *Excused:* Eric Bunn (absent with notification), Donald Havard; Robert Hollingsworth. A quorum is present.

Code of Conduct: read by Gina Walton

Approval of Minutes: presented by Lisa Blackwell-Brown

Motion – Michael Spiller – to accept minutes as presented with corrections

Motion Seconded – Chuck Clay

Discussion – be sure to correct misspelled names, specifically Gina Walton's

Call the Question – President Forester – to accept the minutes as presented

Motion Passes – one abstention – Robin Burns

President's Report

Financial

- notified organizational structure needed to be in place to maintain funding
- legislation Clean Hands – has to do with receiving money from DC government; labor organizations were not considered when this legislation was enacted
 - a. has clean hands certificate
 - b. 501 (c)(5) – lost tax-exempt status in 2018, has since gotten it back
 - c. need to submit business license; need to retain legal counsel to help through this process and has received two proposals for this purpose
- wants to have a special board meeting within the next two weeks to go over all things that impact the budget and to address the finances in depth, which will include vacation balances and health insurance discussions; employees with high balances have started taking leave where feasible
- all things financial will impact business license; wants to review finances from an organizational structure standpoint
- everything needs to be taken care of by 3/1/2021

Legislative

- count every vote action/rally
- types of legislation – Protect Workers Workers Compensation; Mendelsohn pulled emergency legislation to re-open DC schools off the agenda
- working with David to assess where legislation is currently, also to put forth a plan for online mobilization; how to lobby virtually
- meeting with Montgomery County Chair and Prince Georges County Chair to be briefed on legislative agenda and legislative priorities for this session
- meeting with MOTA from the Mayor's office
- Ann Hoffman will replace President Forester on DC Housing and Authority Board
- need to see information to the Mayor's office with input of who MWC wants on certain committees

Discussion on legislative priorities/existing legislation going forward

- national Unions have met with the Biden campaign and are urgently having conversation on what collective action labor should take
- voters decided rally
- need to do something but should be a targeted approach; immediate collective action;
- convene a meeting to plan out next steps – Liz Davis recommended that Chuck Clay lead up this meeting; group consists of: Liz Davis, Chuck Clay, David Stephenson, David Richardson, Donna Brockington

Motion – Michael Spiller – to accept the President's report

Motion Seconded – Greg Bowen

No Further Discussion

Calling the Question

Motion Passes - unanimously

Point of Order – Gina Walton – need to follow the agenda as set forth; election appeal update is before evening with labor

Election Appeal Update: presented by Andrew Washington

- have gotten nowhere
- only received 1-2 emails regarding any interest to sit on an appeals committee
- only one individual challenged the election
- as a Board, that is split on this issue, need to come to some level of consensus of where we want to move with this matter
- the candidate wished to move this matter to the AFL-CIO for a decision but cannot ignore constitutional obligation and need to make some type of decision; boards duty to act prior to it being moved to the AFL-CIO
- same conversation today as 30 days ago
- volunteers for election appeals committee – Donna Brockington, Stephen Frum, Liz Davis, Michael Spiller, Robin Burns, Ann Hoffman

- per the constitution, there can be only one agenda item per special meeting so Chuck Clay suggested to discuss appeals matter in a special meeting immediately following the finance discussion special meeting; President Forester accepted this suggestion

Financial Report: President Forester wants to have a special financial meeting to address the finances and all that that entails as outlined in the presidential report

Motion – Dave Richardson – to table finances and to have a special meeting to address the finances

Motion Seconded – George Farenthold

Discussion – happened during the President’s report

Call the Question – President Forester

Motion Passes - unanimously

Evening with Labor: presented by George Farenthold

- scheduled for 4/3/2021
- fiduciary responsibility – about \$160,000 in bank and need to give fair value for the money
- cannot place people at risk so we need to think about alternatives over the next two months
- will schedule a fundraiser committee meeting to figure out having this event virtually
- no cancellation limit at Martin’s Crossing at the moment
- Prince Georges County restrictions on meeting size
- want to recognize the awardees and need a day to celebrate but must be safe in doing so
- Liz Davis – wants to be added to the fundraiser committee

Election Committee Report: presented by Gina Walton

- there were four candidates for the open board seat, but Myra Hines (DCMA) and Laura (WTU Sticks) were determined to be ineligible because there is already representation on the board from their areas
- Tom Killeen (SMART) and Theresa Dudley (PGCEA) were determined to be eligible
- Tom Killeen is the only candidate for the open Executive Board position as Theresa Dudley did not return acceptance for in time per the instructions
- Motion to accept Tom Killeen by acclamation will be made at the delegates meeting on 11/17/2020

- there is another vacant seat as Jim Griffin resigned from his board seat October 30th; nominations will be open at the 11/17/2020 delegates meeting and elections will be held at the 12/22/2020 meeting
- **Discussion on election protocol** – Wanda Shelton-Martin– Article 8, Section 5, subsections (a) and (b) states that the person needs 50% + 1 and if all candidates do not achieve that, is there a runoff; Gina Walton will look into this matter and answer accordingly.

Organizational Reports

COPE – presented by Political Director David Stephen

- compiled a calendar for 2021 for all COPE meetings; living document so adjustments can be made along the way
- Displaced Workers Right to Reinstatement and Retention Act – the Board has already voted to support this bill; solidarity request from Unite Here Local 25; being sent to Councilmember Mendelsohn; Liz Davis wants to ensure that all Unions in the Labor Council have the opportunity to be included; does this apply to private and public workers? – Dave Stephenson will get clarification
Motion – Michael Spiller – to accept DC bill 23-965, Displaced Workers Right to Reinstatement and Retention Act
Motion Seconded – Liz Davis
No Further Discussion
Call the Question
Motion Passes – unanimously
- Letter to Councilmember Brandon Todd (and all Councilmembers) urging them to move the Public Sector Injured Workers Equality Amendment Act – will be coordinating a lobbying effort
- Medical Marijuana Program Patient Employment Protection Bill
- Register for Prince Georges and Montgomery County COPE meeting to hear labor's priorities
- Delegates meetings being moved to third Tuesday

Union City – presented by Coordinator Chris Garlock

- keeping a close eye on social media; traffic is up significantly

Educational Committee

- meeting 11/17/2020 at 9:30AM
- working on statement regarding school opening

CAP – presented by Director Tonya Love – will be reflected on the financial report

Community Service Agency – presented by Executive Director Sonte DuCote

- holiday basket requests from community-based organizations
- 17 families
- IBEW 576 made a \$2500 contribution
- Saul Schneiderman – working with federal workplace giving campaign
- working with Council 20 to get emails out to bolster participation
- Building construction apprentice program is doing great work – 65 applicants, 26 accepted, 24 graduated
- starting to work with transportation learning center
- Sonte wants to be a part of virtual fundraising

Old/New Business

Affiliate Updates

1. Local 22 – working without a contract
2. Liz Davis (WTU) – what are we doing to protect/safeguard safety and health and working conditions of the employees we represent amid this pandemic
3. Herb Harris (BLET/IBT) – would like to send a letter to support regional rail project

Motion – George Farenthold – to send the letter requested in support of the regional rail project

Motion Seconded – Greg Bowen

Discussion

Call the Question

Motion Passes

4. Djawa Hall – hospital in SE DC, many members received layoff letters effective 12/31/2020; done in an underhanded way; permanently removing beds from hospital
5. Donna Brockington – follow-up with Sonte regarding check

Adjournment

Motion – Greg Bowen

Motion Seconded – Donna Brockington

No Discussion

Call the Question

Motion Passes – unanimous

Meeting adjourned @ 4:43PM

Submitted by L. Wilsonia Blackwell-Brown, Esq.
Secretary