

Imperial Beach Democratic Club – February 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 6:08pm by President Anna Web
2. Pledge of Allegiance recited
3. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve: Rick Bates; 2nd by Felicia House; motion passed.
4. Approval of January 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes:
Motion to approve: Rick Bates; 2nd by Frances Johann; No discussion nor questions.
Motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Speakers: There were no requests to speak.
2. Swearing in of IBDC officers
 - a. Elected officers were sworn in by Mayor Pro Tem Ed Spriggs. Officers will serve a two-year term.
3. Swearing in of IBDC secretary
 - a. Filling in the vacant position of secretary, Carol Tennebaum was sworn in by IBDC President Anna Webb.
4. COVID-19 and Vaccine Update
 - a. Dr. Ramon Hernandez presented an update on San Diego County and Imperial Beach, with detailed slides of current data and demographics
 - b. Presentation highlights included information regarding senior access to online appointment technology; Misinformation circulating in communities that is contributing to lower vaccination rates in communities of color
5. Post-Inaugural Panelists: Imperial Beach Mayor Pro Tem Ed Spriggs; San Diego County Supervisor Nora Vargas, District 1; Imperial Beach Mayor Serge Dedina was scheduled to participate, but was unable to attend.
 - a. Supervisor Nora Vargas:
 - i. Will be introducing an initiative addressing Climate Justice
 - ii. COVID-19 vaccines: Focused on equity of vaccinations and general health equity; the number of vaccines from the federal government is slow. San Diego County COVID Committee is focused on creating the infrastructure to ensure that all vaccines are used, along with increasing the number of vaccination sites; hardest hit communities need to be the focus for studying equity and barriers; people are in place to receive 211 calls, and provide direct contact to people in Tier 1 (age 75 and older) to help them get vaccination appointments; Supervisor Vargas proudly shared that the County of San Diego is among the highest in the state for vaccinations.
 - b. Mayor Pro Tem Ed Spriggs:
 - i. Shared his feelings of optimism and a more positive path forward for our country, along with a reminder that we have an urgent need for a renewed commitment to address disparities that have typified our national history; political ideology and deep divisions are preventing a pragmatic approach to disparities in Native American, African American and Latinx communities. MPT Spriggs also pointed out the growing political divide between urban and rural communities, as an example of discussions taking place within the League of California Cities; getting the “green light” at the federal level will continue to give impetus to communities wishing to address inequities.

- ii. Side/Related group discussion on the need for empathy and compassion in conversations as we begin to address the political divide here in Imperial Beach and elsewhere; MPT Spriggs concluded that we have “much work to do on a multi-dimensional challenge.”
 - c. Q & A
 - i. Topics addressed in the Q&A included: Further clarification on causes of disparity related to access and distribution of vaccine; MTS announcement of free rides for people showing appointments for vaccination; making changes in the online appointment scheduling system to address inequity and other challenges; infrastructure outpacing actual number of available vaccines; allowing younger POC to be vaccinated, thus having them as “trusted messengers” within their communities
 - ii. Rick Bates initiated a discussion related to fostering empathy as a Democratic Club in our own IB community
 - iii. Expressions of gratitude for the time and knowledge sharing of panelists
- 6. Announcements
 - a. Felicia House reminded those members who haven’t yet renewed their annual dues to please do so as soon as possible
 - b. IB Councilmember Matthew Leyva-Gonzalez shared information about the upcoming Community Cleanup on Saturday, February 5.
 - c. Michelle Krug encouraged members to take advantage of the San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts, “Human Rights Watch” film festival.
 - d. Update on Assembly District 9 special election.
 - e. Cynara Velazquez shared that she is starting a working group to lobby against Citizens United. Interested persons should contact her via email: cynara@yourcer.com
 - f. Paula Hall: Imperial Beach vaccination center is moving on Feb. 9th from the Civic Center to Mar Vista High School, parking lot entrance on IB Blvd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13PM

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 4, 2021