

Imperial Beach Democratic Club Meeting
June 4, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:18pm with a moment silence for George Floyd. The agenda was moved for approval by Ramon Espinal and seconded by Anna Molina Rodriguez. The agenda was approved. The minutes were moved for approval by Jessica Hayes, and Paula Hall seconded. The minutes were approved.

- Candidates who were in attendance spoke (not up for endorsement)
- Chris Ward-Assembly member San Diego County candidate
- Antonio Martinez-re-election to the San Ysidro school board
- LaWana Richmond-San Diego School Board District E-San Diego

- Bylaw Amendment consideration discussion with Anna Webb. Explanation and Q&A.
 - First bylaw amendment: ...attended at least two (2) General Meetings in the current rolling twelve (12) month period.
 - (Amended from: The member has attended at least two (2) General Meetings in the current calendar year.)
 - Michelle Krug made a motion to consider the amendment and Ramon Espinal seconded.

 - The first amendment passed with 19 yes and 0 no. The amendment carried.

 - Second bylaw amendment: Article IV, Section 4, Item A: Deleted “as long as they have attended two previous meetings during the current calendar year.” (redundancy)
 - Michelle Krug made a motion to consider the amendment and Ramon Espinal seconded. 20 yes and 0 no. The amendment carried.

 - Third bylaw amendment: Article XI, Section 6: Added “In the event of a government-declared state of emergency that would prohibit our ability to meet in person, the Club may meet and vote via teleconference.”

 - On the third amendment there was discussion and polling was used for member to choose 1 to leave it the same and 2 to approve the amendment.
 - 24 approved the amendment with 0 opposed. The amendment carried.

Our endorsement process to consider candidates for SD County Supervisor District 1, Ben Hueso and Nora Vargas.

Question & Answer

- Michelle Krug asked a question regarding budgets during and after Covid-19.

- Martha Emerald asked about Baja Action planning.
- The motion was made to take a vote for endorsement by Jessica Hayes and seconded by Serge Dedina.
- The motion carried with 27 for consideration for endorsement for SD County Supervisor District 1.
- We moved to the deliberations.
- One spoke on behalf of Nora Vargas because of her experience with balancing budgets and her work at Planned Parenthood.
- Another spoke, in favor of endorsing Nora Vargas because of her work at Southwestern College and her work at Planned Parenthood.
- One spoke on behalf of Ben Hueso because of his work with the Tijuana River Valley, for students in South Bay, and his work ethic.
- Another spoke in favor of endorsing Ben Hueso because of public trust and his work in governing bodies.
- No one spoke on behalf of no endorsement. Paula called for a secret ballot. We conducted the secret ballot by holding a Zoom poll vote. Results: Ben Hueso 87%, Nora 13% and No Endorsement 0%.
- Ben Hueso voted for himself, and Nora Vargas chose a secret ballot.
- The total vote result: Ben Hueso 27 votes, Nora Vargas 5 votes and No endorsement 0 votes.

City Council Imperial Beach District 2 endorsement.

Mark West gave an opening statement. Question & Answer.

- Martha Emerald asked about the Mike Hess issue and his continued infringement on the public space.
- Yvonne Vasquez asked about parking for Mike Hess, and how they so many people can be there. Mark is for being less car traffic.
- Bryan Brillhart asked about Mike Hess and when they would be fixing up the place.
- Mark West talked about how successful Mike Hess is in employing our community.

- Mark West gave his closing statement.
- One spoke on his behalf regarding his relentless commitment to get things done.
- One spoke about his ability to lead.
- Paloma motioned that we entertain a motion to endorse and Sandy seconded.
- Results: Mark West 28 votes to endorse, 0 not to endorse and 0 no endorsement.

Imperial Beach City Council District 4 Endorsement.

Matthew Leyba-Gonzalez made his opening statement. Question & Answer

- Martha Emerald asked why he wanted to be on the city council.
- Matthew said he wants to be an advocate for district fours working class. She followed up with why he would be a good council member. He said his work ethic.
- Paula Hall asked about the younger people in his area. She wanted to know what Matthew's plan is to engage youth.
- Michelle asked what he thought his biggest challenge is. He said Covid-19 because his district needed to get businesses back in business and workers back to work.
- Richard Pilgrim asked what the main issue in the city budget is when we get to post Covid-19.
- Matthew said it is getting the community back to work.
- Matthew gave closing statements
- Rick Bates spoke on his behalf regarding his work ethic as a laborer.
- Martha Emerald spoke about having diversity on the city council.
- Paloma Aguirre spoke about Matthew being a guy who walks the walk and his work ethic.
- Felicia spoke about his ability to work in his neighborhood because he is from the neighborhood.

Martha Emerald motioned that we consider endorsing Matthew and Mark seconded. The was 22 yes 0 no and 0 no.

Martha motioned that we vote on endorsement and Paloma seconded. The I's have it and there was no discussion.

The vote is 21 yes and 0 no and 0 no endorsement

National City City Council endorsement.

Marcus Bush made an opening statement.

Dr. Gonzalo Quintero made an opening statement.

Jose Rodriguez made an opening statement.

Ditas Yamane was not present.

Mark West motioned that we endorse in the National City race and Martha Emerald seconded the motion.

Paula Hall's question was how the candidates plan to build relationships with other cities.

- Marcus Bush said he plans work with other city's council members to improve our shared communities.
- Dr. Gonzalo Quintero said he plans to build a strong relationship with Port of San Diego.
- Jose Rodriguez said he plans to build relationships that are the right side of the environment, the community, and its workers.

Closing statements

Discussion on the three candidates.

- Paloma Aguirre, Mark West, and Rick Bates spoke on behalf of Marcus Bush.
- Mark West spoke on behalf of Dr. Gonzalo Quintero.
- Michelle Krug, and Ramon Espinal spoke on behalf of Jose Rodriquez.
- No one spoke on the behalf of Ditas Yamane

Rick Bates made a motion to endorse and Paloma Aguirre seconded the motion to consider endorsing in the National City City Council race.

It's unanimous we will be voting to endorse in the National City Council Race.

- First round results: Marcus Bush 10, Jose Rodriguez 10, Dr. Quintero 1, Yamane 0, and No endorsement 0.
- Second round results: Marcus 7, Jose 11. Jose won the endorsement for the first seat.

- Third round results: Marcus 11, Ditas 1, no endorsement 5.

Paula Hall motioned that we bring them back in the room and tell them and Mark West seconded.

Endorsement Final: Marcus Bush and Jose Rodriquez.

Rob Howard mayoral candidate for Oceanside spoke about why he was running for Mayor in Oceanside.

Announcements:

Michelle reminded us to fill out our census forms.

Paloma Aguirre thanked Anna Webb and Rick Bates for running our meeting.

Paula Hall motioned that we adjourn, and Felicia House seconded the motion. We adjourned at 11:06 pm.