

Imperial Beach Dem Club Meeting Minutes March 4, 2021

In attendance: Anna Webb, Rick Bates, Carol Tennebaum, Liba de la Mora, Josie Hamada, Paula Hall, Cynara Velazquez, Felicia House, Scott Stutzman, Ann and Dick Pilgrim, Martha Emerald, Pat Flowers, Cheryl Quinones, Sybil Roget, Rob Howard, Frances Johan, Win Heiskala, Michelle Krug, Suzie Ditmars, Mayor Serge Dedina

Excused due to scheduling conflicts were Sandy Brillhart and Antonio Martinez.

Guests: David Myers (retired Sherriff), CV Councilman Steve Padilla.

1. Meeting called to order by President Anna Webb at 6:05 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda– Motion Martha Emerald, 2nd Josie Hamada
4. Approval of February 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes–Motion Martha Emerald, 2nd Felicia House
5. Officer Vacancies- Anna Webb shared the floor to Rick Bates who announced he would be stepping down as Vice President due to changes with his work as well as his other duties with the Democratic Central Committee. He will still be an active member.
6. GO Team – a presentation on the GO Team by Cynara Velazquez and Felicia House who both shared the importance of what a Get Out the Vote Team means in electing democratic representatives and how it made huge difference in the last election. Go Team volunteers provide the ‘boots on the ground’ and are key in neighbor-to-neighbor outreach. They shared that 27% more people vote when there is a GoTeam. Cynara is the South Bay Regional GoTeam coordinator. Jane King was our club’s Go Team leader until stepping down recently so our club will need to have that position filled as we approach another election period and the timeframe of March 2022 Primary which is really not that far in the future. She also spoke about current efforts by the party for campaign finance reform and how currently there is lack of transparency and accountability with 501c4 which do not have to reveal who their donors are. She gave a few examples. Cynara also shared info about the fight against Citizens United and that she is working with other activists on that issue. Anyone interested should contact her.
7. Anna then spoke about the importance of civic engagement to our democracy and how important it is to be involved and engaged. There are many opportunities to serve on committees here locally in I.B. etc. to not only support our current democratic leaders but also that democracy should never be taken for granted. Civil liberty requires us to engage.
8. Mayor Serge Dedina shared information about his focus this year for Imperial Beach along with the City Council:
 - a. Parks and Recreation
 - b. City Infrastructure
 - c. Safety for everyone (safe walking zones, looking at safe policing, etc.)
 - d. Shared vision with elected throughout the Southbay and the great collaboration they have which has been really effective (ex: COVID testing sites and vaccination centers)
9. Chula Vista Councilman Steve Padilla announced his bid for the State Senate District 40, the seat currently held by Senator Ben Hueso who will term out. Councilman Padilla also gave

appreciation and thanks for our support and commented he was inspired by Mayor Dedina's speech. He thanked Mayor Dedina and very much agrees that our South Bay communities have built a 'stronger together' collaboration.

10. Retired Sherriff Commander David Myers gave a presentation on the San Diego County jail system and the newly created joint audit task force. The statistics he shared are alarming regarding the number of suicides of those incarcerated and that the percentages of those incarcerated are of black or brown communities and *of those who completed the suicide** a large percentage had not been convicted of a crime.