

Imperial Beach Democratic Club – April 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Present: Anna Webb, Felicia House, Paula Hall, Carol Tennebaum, Antonio Martinez, Rick Bates, Cheryl Quinones, Susan Marrinan, IB City Councilmember Paloma Aguirre, IB City Councilmember Matthew Leyba-Gonzalez, Marti Emerald, Ernie Galindo, Cynara Velazquez, Josie Hamada, Rob Howard, IB City Councilmember Ed Spriggs, Dr. Ramon Hernandez, Liba de la Mora, Karl Bradley, Anne Pilgrim, Fran Johann, Elsie Sleeter, Suzie Ditmars, Michelle Krug

1. Meeting (via Zoom) called to order at 6:05 PM by President Anna Web
2. Pledge of Allegiance recited
3. Moment of Silence observed for all those lost to mass shootings in the month of March
4. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve: Paula Hall; 2nd by Marti Emerald; motion passed.
5. Approval of March 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve: Marti Emerald; 2nd by Susan Marrinan; No discussion nor questions. Minutes were approved as written.

AGENDA ITEMS:

ITEM: IBDC Vice President Officer Appointment and Swearing-In:

President Anna Webb presented Antonio Martinez as the appointee for the remaining term vacated by Rick Bates. Rick Bates served IBDC as Vice President for 1 ½ years, and was praised and thanked for his excellent service and representation. Antonio Martinez accepted the request to serve through December 2020, and was sworn into office by President Anna Webb. Antonio expressed his appreciation for being asked to serve, and is looking forward to extending his community involvement in the community of Imperial Beach.

ITEM: COVID-19 Vaccination Update – Dr. Ramona Hernandez

Dr. Hernandez shared a PowerPoint to display data of state, county and local metrics for cases and vaccinations. The data continues to show positive changes in deaths, hospitalizations and outbreaks. Data also continues to show that communities of color are disproportionately impacted. Cases are increasing more rapidly in the age group of 19-29 year olds.

Communities of color are seeing slower vaccination rates. Positive cases per 100,000 in Imperial Beach are higher than the county average. The vaccination rate in IB is lower than the county average.

Dr. Hernandez stated that the County is definitely moving forward, but with much work ahead to reach 70% vaccinated/herd immunity, and cautioned all of us to continue observing safety measures.

Anna Webb recognized the three IB City Council members who attended the meeting: Councilmember Ed Spriggs (District 3); Councilmember Paloma Aguirre (District 1); Matthew Leyba-Gonzalez (District 4). Councilmembers were invited to share news/events related to the impact of COVID-19.

Councilmember Aguirre announced a Food Drive on April 24 at the IB Sports Park, with a goal of feeding 500 families; asked interested persons to help in strong show of community support for an Emergency Ordinance led by Supervisor Nora Vargas to extend a ban on evictions.

Josie Hamada is working on a membership list by IB City Council District, with a plan to have district-level meetings so neighbors can get to know one another and be informed of district-specific issues.

Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez is working with some businesses on 13th Street to make some tenant improvements. IB City Council is working with property owners to encourage their involvement and participation in such improvements; he is working on distributing Little Libraries in his district to provide greater access to quality reading materials for children and adults.

Marti Emerald encouraged councilmembers to have regular monthly meetings with their constituents in order to stay in touch with area-specific concerns.

José Rodriguez, National City City Councilmember, has signed onto a letter re: the proposed County ordinance to extend eviction ban.

Dr. Hernandez responded to a number of questions from members that addressed the disparity in vaccinations and vaccination rates, incentives to increase vaccinations in communities of color.

Felicia House shared her observations and experiences in serving people in the Latinx and African/African American/Black communities. From her experiences and data, the Latinx community is turning around faster than the Black/African communities. Historical atrocities and disparities within these communities significantly contribute to the hesitancy to be vaccinated, as well as intentional misinformation from the previous Administration. However, she has seen that “trusted messengers” are making a positive difference.

Rick Bates: California Labor Organizations are obtaining vaccines and targeting communities of color wherein much of their workforce live. The big challenge is getting African immigrant communities to trust the vaccine. Dr. Hernandez added that there are groups that are working specifically with those fearful communities through “trusted messengers”.

Anna Webb shared information that dispels the conspiracy theory of RFID chip insertion via vaccinations.

President Anna Webb recognized and thanked Felicia House and Dr. Hernandez for all of their good work in the community.

ITEM: IBDC Officer Quarterly Reports was tabled and will be rescheduled for the May General Meeting.

ITEM: Announcements

Rick Bates shared information on the upcoming April 17 Progressive Labor Alliance summit. The theme is “Building the Post-COVID Economy. Details on the many break-out sessions are available on the following link: <https://fb.me/e/417w6plcr>

Marti Emerald is heading up a Red Cross Fire Safety effort that includes free smoke detectors for those in need.

ITEM: SOCIAL ACTIVITY – To help members get to know one another, each meeting attendee shared the name and location of their elementary school, and a quick sharing of any significant “shaping” experiences they may have had.

ITEM: Spring Fundraiser – President Anna Webb served as auctioneer for variously themed baskets that were filled with items donated by local businesses and individual members. The local business donors included: Millport restaurant, Lilylu Flowers, Little Ant Art, Dawn Patrol Yoga, and Fast Painting. The auction was fun and lively, and a total of \$435 was raised.

ITEM: Announcements continued

Cynara Velaquez encouraged members to get involved with the GO Team.

Antonio Martinez shared that the San Diego County Democratic Community Service committee is organizing an effort to highlight and support minority-owned businesses. South Bay will feature minority-owned restaurants and coffee shops, and members can submit names of such businesses to Antonio for consideration.

Rick Bates: Candidate Evaluations Committee is seeking to consolidate the many questionnaires that candidates must respond to, creating a single consolidated questionnaire. People interested in this and the Platform Committee are welcome to attend or give input.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21PM

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 6, 2021