

MINUTES OF IBDC GENERAL MEETING MARCH 2, 2023

The Imperial Beach Democratic Club held a General Meeting at 150 Palm Avenue (Seaside Candy), Imperial Beach, and contemporaneously on Zoom, on March 2, 2023.

1. The Meeting was called to Order by Anna W at 6:08 p.m.
2. Anna W lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Win H moved to approve the Agenda for the meeting, duly 2nd, and hearing no opposition, the Agenda was approved.
4. Antonio M moved to approve the Minutes of Meeting of January 12, 2023, duly seconded, and hearing no opposition, the Minutes were approved.
5. Anna W swore in two new officers to the Club:
 - Antonio Martinez as Vice President. Note: prior elected Mary Doyle as VP but she was unable, for personal reasons, to fulfill the position and resigned, and Antonio M was appointed by Anna W.
 - Elsie Sleeter as Member at Large. Note: Elsie S is filling the position vacated by former board Member at Large, Yvonne Vasquez
6. The City update was presented by Mayor Paloma Aguirre. Mayor Aguirre discussed the recent approval/passing by City Council of a Palm Avenue mixed use project as highly desirable and much needed in the community. Mayor Aguirre discussed the process for filling positions on City boards and commissions. She also announced a vacancy on the CDC Power board and the City has authorized the payment of \$100 per meeting to the person selected for that position. The Mayor discussed the current time line for the RV residents to move from the RV park on Palm Avenue. And, she discussed the newspaper article reporting today of airborne pathogens from the ongoing sewage contamination of the ocean, and the fact that continued publicity of the crisis may assist in accelerating action for remediation.
7. Hearing no opposition, Anna W moved the presentation by Cynara Kidwell to follow the Q&A session following the 4 program speakers.
8. The speakers regarding the issue of Campaign Finance Reform spoke approximately 10 minutes each as follows:
 - a. Rob Means, Advocate, Move to Amend, provided background and current status on the efforts to amend the case commonly referred to as Citizens United, and urged attendees to review their web page, potentially join the effort and/or donate, and support HJR48, a proposed resolution for a constitutional amendment.
 - b. Rick Bates, Policy Director, Unite Here, Local 30, explained the transparency and democratic nature of the Union format. He pointed out that 25% of the voters in Imperial Beach are Union members, and emphasized that funds sent from an address outside of IB is not an indication of the source of the funds, but rather an indication of an office location.
 - c. Brian Adams, PhD., Political Science Dept., SDSU, discussed the lack of research for cities the size of IB. He emphasized that spending limits have a minimal effect on campaign reform. Likewise, research has shown that attempts such as matching funds an “clean” election funds tend to “fizzle” over time and no reduction is seen in the amount of money generated by campaigns. Dr. Adams also emphasized the importance of transparency.
 - d. Amy Tobia, Advocate, SD local chapter of Represent US, provided background information as to her organization, and the growing issue of low confidence of voters in the

voting system, the need for transparency and engaged voters, and that the country is considered a “threatened democracy”. Ms. Tobia discussed the concept of Democracy Dollars and gave examples of the application of the process in Seattle and Oakland as a means of matching government funds and border voter participation in the selection and voting of candidates. She also discussed pending AB83 which seeks to eliminate foreign involvement in corporations that provide funding to campaigns, stating that, if passed, could eliminate 40 - 50% of Fortune 500 companies in their campaign contributions. She urged attendees to contact their legislative representatives to urge passage of the legislation. A Q & A session followed these speakers with various attendees participating.

9. Cynara Kidwell, Director, San Diego County Democratic Party Council of Clubs, provided input as to one of the more important programs planned for the upcoming year with an emphasis on the interaction of clubs for the purpose of learning from each other how to improve and accomplish specific goals for each club.

10. Announcements:

A. Michelle K and Paula H provided information on the National Day of Action in Bakersfield, March 17 and bus transportation available through the California Alliance and urged attendees to visit the website.

B. Mayor Paloma and Pat F reminded everyone of the ongoing Age Friendly citywide initiative public forums coming up in the month: March 4, 9:30 - 11:00 am, the Fleet Reserve, 659 Silver Strand; March 14, 1:00 - 2:30 pm, IB Library, Community Room; March 23, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m, Bayside Elementary School Auditorium, 490 Emory, Street

C. Lynne F urged promotion of the 9th Street project at the Age Friendly discussions to assist safety for seniors, and Mayor Paloma added that the 9th Street project would provide benefits for all ages in the community and urged support.

D. Rick B announced the appointment of Mayor Paloma A to the Coastal Commission, and emphasized the appointment was made by the Speaker of the House of the California Legislature.

E. Anna W announced the next meeting, April 6, will highlight the community crisis of food insecurity and housing. 10: Adjournment; The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Win Heiskala

Approved: _4/6/2023