

**IBDC General Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 4, 2024 @ 6:00 pm via Zoom**

**Members in attendance:**

Anna Webb  
Anne Pilgrim  
Antonio Martinez  
Ben Swearingin  
Bryan Brillhart  
Carlos Montalvo  
Delio Bacalski  
Diane Castaneda  
Ed Spriggs  
Eileen Hanson  
Elsie Slater  
Ernie Galindo  
Felicia House  
Jay Novak  
Jenn Crumbly  
John Crumbly  
Johnny Swanson  
Josie Hamada  
Karl Bradley  
Liba Isabel de la Mora  
Malia Holleron  
Marcus Guerra  
Marti Emerald  
Michelle Krug  
Paloma Aguirre  
Pat Flowers  
Paula Hall  
Peter Honan

Rosie Montano  
Rick Bates  
Sandy Brillhart  
Tom Csanadi  
Win Heiskala

**Guests:**

Alexis Avina  
Angela Garcia Sims  
Bill Seager  
Delfina Gonzalez  
Scott Zank  
Sara Ochoa  
"Team Coleen"

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by Anna.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by Anna.
3. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Paloma, and seconded by Pat. The vote was unanimously approved.
4. Motion to approve the December 2023 minutes (as distributed) was made by Paloma, and seconded by Marti. The vote was unanimously approved.
5. Newly Elected EBoard Officers were sworn in.
6. Elected Official/Candidate Reports:
  - A. Scott Zank: He spoke on behalf of his spouse, Korryn Shepard, who is running for San Diego Superior Court Judge Office 43. He emphasized that she is the only Democrat running in the race against a conservative Republican.
  - B. Dr. Alexis Avina: She is running for Chula Vista Elementary School Board Seat 4. She introduced herself and provided key points of her campaign platforms and her endorsements.
  - C. Delfina Gonzalez: She is running for Chula Vista City Council District 4. She introduced herself and provided key points of her campaign platform.
  - D. Sweetwater School Board Trustee Marti Emerald: She provided everyone with an update on Sweetwater School District's student voter registration drive.
  - E. Regional Director 22 Michell Krug: She provided information on how individuals can apply to be delegates to President Biden and attend the Democratic National Convention in Chicago this year. She stated that registration is at [cadem.org](http://cadem.org).
  - F. Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre Presentation: She gave an update on important items coming up at City Hall. This will include discussions on:

- a. Campaign contribution limits (including PACs);
- b. A reporting system for campaign harassment of people of color, especially women; and
- c. The opening of a second cannabis dispensary.

She also provided an update on the sewage crisis and the importance of congressional approval at the Appropriations Committee for funding. She is putting together a group of elected officials to advocate in DC. She also asked for everyone's support for the state of emergency regarding the crisis. Lastly, she highlighted the lawsuit against IBWC by two environmental groups, San Diego Coastkeeper and Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation.

Various members asked questions and provided comments:

- a. Rick asked a question on the funding deadline vote for the passing of Congress' Continuing Resolution, which is February 2nd, 2024.
  - b. Ben asked a question regarding Congress' additional funding, which is an appropriation of \$310 million. Paloma emphasized the need for congressional approval.
  - c. Former Councilmember Ed Spriggs gave an update on IBWC. He also emphasized that Mexico has the resources to "do a better job" regarding the sewage crisis. He stated the importance of not only focusing on the negatives, but also on the positives of Imperial Beach. He said the "Stop of the Stink" signs have played a big role in the negative image of the sewage crisis in the City.
  - d. Pat Flowers asked if she can call congressional members of the Appropriations Committee. Paloma asked her to wait until she had more information on who to contact.
  - e. Michelle Krug stated that she wants to spread the word of the crisis to her contacts.
  - f. Johnny asked for Paloma to attend and speak at the upcoming Nestor Planning Group Meeting. Paloma said she would attend.
  - g. Paula Hall asked how she can get involved virtually.
  - h. Marcus asked for more information on the "Stop the Stink" campaign, and Paloma and Ed provided clarification of this misinformation campaign organized by Leon Benam and right-wing conservatives.
  - i. Sandy stated that she has done significant research on Citizens for Coastal Conservancy, and the negative role they have played in the community.
- G. South Area Vice Chair Sara Ochoa: She gave an update on the most recent South Area endorsement meeting, which included the endorsements of Henry Foster III and Cesar Fernandez for San Diego City Council District 4 and Chula Vista City Council District 4, respectively. She also provided a schedule of the upcoming meetings.

7. Officer briefings/updates/reports:

- A. President Anna Webb gave an update on the previous Central Committee meeting, as well as IBDC's role on the endorsement process.

- B. Vice President Paloma Aguirre emphasized the importance of increasing club membership.
  - C. Treasurer Anne Pilgrim provided a current financial report. The club has \$1,820.30.
  - D. Communications Director Sandy Brillhart provided an update on current ways the IBDC communicates with members. She also asked for more ideas on other methods to improve communications.
  - E. Membership Director Ben Swearingin reported that the club has 60 renewals, and 15 new members, and he sent out welcome cards.
  - F. Outreach Director Marti Emerald proposed that in addition to the outreach in Imperial Beach, outreach to club members in Coronado is also vital. She also suggested the importance of reaching out to the Imperial Beach Chamber of Commerce.
  - G. Secretary Antonio Martinez stated that he created a sample format for our minutes.
  - H. Go-Team Coordinator Pat Flowers stated that she has 5 people committed to volunteering for the Go-Team.
8. March Primary Discussion was tabled for the next E-Board meeting.
9. Announcements:
- A. Anna reminded everyone that Councilmember Leyba Gonzalez is hosting a cleanup on Saturday, January 20th from 7 AM-Noon.
  - B. Marti announced that she is hosting a birthday fundraiser for San Diego City Attorney Candidate Heather Ferbert on Saturday, January 6 from Noon-3 PM.
  - C. Antonio announced that Chula Vista City Council Candidate Michael Inzunza is organizing a canvassing event on Saturday, January 27th at 10 AM.
10. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.