

Payne County Democrats  
Meeting Minutes from 11 January 2024  
Stillwater Public Library  
Snacks and socializing at 6:00pm, meeting at 6:30pm

Present at Meeting: Bobi (Alberta) Bertenshaw, Lisa Bozeman, David Copley, Sam Cypert, Florence Degler, Teresa Duston, Carolyn Gang, Cynthia Gedra, Deanna Homer, John Homer, Pat Jaynes, Neal Ketchman, Gary Lanman, Pat Mullins, Roger Mullins, Clay Ness, Gary Nicholson, Edward Noltensmeyer, Bud (Claud) Reese, Lindsey Smith, Elizabeth Thornton, Justin Worley, Eileen Cravello, Carolyn Meyer, Kel Pickens

## **Officer Reports:**

### President's Report and announcements:

- The Agenda was approved. (Sam Cypert 1st, Gary Lanman 2nd)
- New Officer for Vice-Chair is Carolyn Gang; for Affirmative Action is Pat Mullins
- Justin thanked the Membership Committee for their work on Talking Points; thanked the Delegates and Precinct Officers who came to the County Convention to vote on the new Officers, and thanked Florence Degler for volunteering to become a Delegate.
- Florence announced that she donated food and items to the homeless through a local group of citizens and encouraged others to donate as well.
- Pat Jaynes announced that the MLK parade scheduled for January 14th would be canceled due to cold weather. There will still be an MLK event on the 18th in the Starlight Terrace at OSU. All are welcome.
- Justin attended the Wreaths Across America, and thought it was very well done. He encouraged others to attend in the future.

### Finance Report:

-Carolyn gave a short speech about how she will approach her role as Treasurer (Vice-Chair). The [attached finance report](#) has one difference between the book balance and the bank statement. She read the expenses and income for the month. Book Balance is \$15,334.41

### Secretary's Report:

-Cynthia announced that one correction had been made to the December minutes regarding candidates for Stillwater School Board: the election will be between Gay Washington and Sheila Means.

Minutes were approved. (Sam Cypert 1st, Lindsey Smith 2nd)

### Affirmative Action Report:

-Sam read a dedication to Dr. Martin Luther King

### OSU College Democrats Report:

-Lindsey Smith gave a report from Camryn Paulson (OSU College Dems President). OSU College Dems has a full Executive Board now. CDOK will be held at OSU this weekend.

### CD3 Report:

-Roger Mullins reported that Sarah Carns (Chair) and Jim Potts (Vice-Chair) have been visiting in District 3 to see how they can be involved. He will submit a report from the next CD3 meeting.

## **Committee Reports:**

Communications Sam Cypert will fill in this position. He has greatly updated the website. There is a blog, a calendar of events, and he has archived important documents. Sam gave statistics of use and engagement for Facebook and Instagram. FB had 363 users last week and Instagram had 79. We are trying to boost our presence.

Budget see Old Business

Sam Cypert-Political Affairs Sam gave a report about the City of Stillwater's presentation at OSU. Topics include city-wide emergency radio upgrade, waterline project upgrade, new animal welfare site near Boomer Lake and dog park, Block 34 groundbreaking in February, continued changes on Duck Street, and new Rails-to-Trails path. They also heard about the OK Taskforce

Community Engagement Vacant

Events Vacant

Veteran Affairs Vacant

Membership and Recruitment See New Business

## **Old Business**

-The proposed Budget was discussed. Carolyn Gang suggested adding a line item for room rental since we are meeting at the library now. Approved. (Cynthia Gedra 1st, Sam Cypert 2nd).

The 2024 Budget was approved. (Carolyn Gang 1st, Pat Jaynes 2nd)

## **New Business**

-Bobi Bertenshaw and Bud Reese handed out a list of Talking Points for Payne County Democrats that were compiled by the Membership committee, and asked those in attendance to rank these in order of importance, and to add any other points they might think of. These were then collected at tonight's meeting.

### **-Important upcoming dates:**

-January 18 Friends of the Library and League of Women Voter Meet Your Legislators at the Library

-January 14 at BackStage 3-4pm kick-off for Gay Washington campaign

-January 25 City Council 7-8pm Special meeting about location of animal shelter

-January 27 at 10am: Coffee (rescheduled for weather). Aspen at Lakeview

-February Elections for Payne County:

Board of Education Primaries February 13 in Cushing, Perkins and Glencoe

Board of Education General Election April 2

-April 6 National Delegates will be voted on in Ardmore Convention

-May 19-mini fundraiser 5-7pm. Event will be in the home of Cathey and Ronnie Barney in the Berry Creek neighborhood. "Midterm Meltdown" ice cream social with "ImPeach"ment Cobblers and fixings.

-Book Club discussion of Democracy Awakening. Date TBD

**Discussion** Adjourn (Carolyn 1st, Sam 2nd)

Next meeting is Thursday, February 8th, at Stillwater Public Library at 6:00pm

Respectfully Submitted by Cynthia Gedra

Addendum:

PAYNE COUNTY DEMOCRATS  
Affirmative Action Report  
Jan. 2024

Acknowledgements:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
  - o OSU Martin Luther King Jr. March has been cancelled due to the possibility of inclement weather; campus will be closed Tuesday, Jan. 16.
  - o On this Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we pause to honor and express our gratitude to the spirit and unwavering dedication Dr. King showed during his life. His efforts and commitment to justice, equality, and civil rights left a mark on the fabric of our society that is recognized by Americans to this day. This Monday, we acknowledge the impact of his legacy, recognizing that the ongoing pursuit of a just and inclusive world requires collective reflection, empathy, and action. May we continue drawing inspiration from Dr. King's courage as we continue our collective journey towards a future characterized by equality, racial justice, and harmony.

\*\*\*\*\*

PAYNE COUNTY DEMOCRATS  
Communications Report  
Jan. 2024

Social Media

- Continuing to implement recommendations from the Membership & Recruitment Committee. Working to conduct more frequent posting on Facebook and Instagram, and more usage of Facebook + Instagram Stories functions.
- Metrics
  - o Facebook
    - 363 users reached in the past 30 days.
    - 228 profile visits in the past 30 days.
    - 33 interactions w/ posted content.
  - o Instagram
    - 79 users reached in the past 30 days.
    - 12 profile visits in the past 30 days.
    - 24 interactions w/ posted content.

Web Updates

- Several major updates in the past 30 days.
  - o Changes to the Landing Page.
    - An "Additional Information" section was added to the bottom of the landing page highlighting upcoming agendas, meeting minutes, upcoming events, and calls for committee chairs and volunteers. We plan to continue updating this section as necessary with other items of PCD business.
  - o Creation of an "About the Organization" page.
    - During our web content review, it was found that we did not host a standalone page that gives a high-level overview of what our organization does and aims to do. This has since been corrected and can now be found under the "News & Information" dropdown. Prospective members will now have more capability to understand our organization moving forward.
  - o Creation of an organizational blog.

- o 2 articles posted thus far – new year and recap of the emergency county convention.
- o Creation of a committee overview page.  
Highlights all active standing committees within PCD.
- o Renaming the original “About Us” page.  
During our web content review, it was found that our original “About Us” page solely included a list of the current officers of the Payne County Democrats. This page was retitled from “About us” to “Our Officers” to more accurately reflect the information on this web page.
- o Additional archiving.  
All Chair Newsletters have been archived to the website. Users will now be able to see all editions that have been disbursed to members since the current Central Committee was elected in April 2023.  
An additional archive page titled “Affirmative Action Articles” has also been added. While only one official newsletter from the Affirmative Action Team has been disbursed, this page will be able to house these going forward.

\*\*\*\*\*

PAYNE COUNTY DEMOCRATS  
Political/Community Affairs Report  
January 2024

Community News:

- City of Stillwater
  - o Completed Projects
    - Emergency response radio upgrades
  - City upgraded radio communication system for all emergency personnel/first responders to utilize the same platform as the rest of Payne County and state agencies.
  - Upgrades allow for expedited response times, better interdepartmental coordination, and easier joint task force initiatives.
- o Current Projects
  - New water pipeline
  - City starting on a \$65M pipeline project to utilize Lake McMurtry as a backup water resource for Payne County.
  - Project in response to finding that the existing Kaw Pipeline runs under a major highway and waterway, making it highly susceptible to damage that could take it offline.
  - Also conducting enhancements to water treatment plant to ensure continuous compliance with federal standards and raise water pressure across the city.
- o Potential Projects
  - New animal welfare facility
  - Estimated cost: \$6.75M; location would be NE of Boomer Lake.
  - Designs also include a dog park and extended walking trail that connects to the lake.
  - Residents will vote on a 20-year bond later this year.  
Conversations ongoing with several major restaurants/retailers regarding economic development in western Stillwater. Representatives could not provide more details since negotiations are ongoing.
- o Future Projects
  - Block 34
  - City will be breaking ground on the project at the beginning of February. Project will take around 18 months to complete.  
Hotel + Convention Center

- Designs not finalized; completion time likely 5+ years out.  
Rails to Trails
- Construction will start later this year.
- 2 years to full completion. Project will be completed in phases throughout Stillwater.

Agency News:

- No major updates.

Executive News:

- Executive Order 2023-32
  - o Creates the “One Oklahoma Task Force.” Aim is to provide legislative and regulatory recommendations for jurisdictional action after the McGirt ruling, as well as unify jail agreements for holding inmates.

Judicial News:

- No major updates.

Legislative News:

Oklahoma House:

- OK House resumes session Feb. 2024.

Oklahoma Senate:

- OK Senate resumes session Feb. 2024.