

NDCC City Committee Minutes

August 10, 2023

Attendees

Exec Board

Derek Thibeault

Manny Espitia

Will Darby

Linda Harriet-Gathright

Teresa Moler

Jason Telerski

22 additional city committee members

Call to Order

Derek Thibeault called the NDCC meeting to order at 7:02PM.

Opening

Introductions were performed by the executive board and city committee members present.

Approval of Minutes

Linda Gathright made a motion to approve the July City Committee meeting minutes. Approved on a voice vote.

Treasurer Report

Manny Espitia presented the Treasurer Report and stated the city committee raised \$8931 over the last month, and has a current balance of \$12891. The campaign finance filings for the NDCC are up to date with the secretary of state, with a big thank you to Jason Telerski for helping to complete those.

General Good and Welfare

State Senate Update

Sen. Cindy Rosenwald gave the State Senate update as follows. The budget was signed at the end of June, with many benefits to Nashua, including an additional \$16M in public education funding over 2 years, medicaid reauthorization, and medicaid provider rate increases. The

Governor vetoed several bills including one on collective bargaining, interest payments on unemployment insurance, and OHRV training requirements. In addition, three bills remain unsigned. The traditional fall veto day was postponed until January.

State House Update

Rep. Laura Telerski provided the State House of Representatives report as follows: Weekly zoom meetings are being held for potential legislation in 2024.

The planned House Democratic caucus picnic planned for the prior Tuesday was canceled due to weather.

A retreat is planned for the House Democratic caucus in the following weeks.

Three special elections are upcoming for State Representative. One in Enfield has good support from the local team. A second in the Northwood and Nottingham district pits Hal Rafter against an extreme, right-wing, Pentecostal minister, and could be a Democratic pickup. The third is Paige Beauchemin's race in Nashua Ward 4 with a primary scheduled for September 19, a week after the mayoral primary. The general election will be concurrent with municipal elections in November. If the Democrats win all three races the House will be tied with 199 Democrats, 199 Republicans and 2 Independents (one generally supporting each party).

City Update

Alderman Derek Thibeault provided the Nashua city update report, and stated the months of July and August are traditionally slow at city hall.

Alderwoman Klee stated the planning board vote on the casino in the previous Sears location was deferred to the following month, with many people attending the planning board for this matter.

Rep. Laura Telerski stated that education commissioner Edelblut was promoting a plan for financial literacy training by the out of state organization PragerU. The state board of education voted to table a decision on this request.

Representative Marc Plamondon stated he had spoken to the police chief about the casino in the prior Sears facility, who expressed a concern about the facility parking lot in Massachusetts.

Alderwoman Klee stated Camp Doucet is planning to clear cut trees currently hiding a cell phone tower. Alderwoman Klee expressed thanks to the Public Works department, which is addressing erosion in city parks due to heavy rain. Alderwoman Klee expressed concern about predatory towing companies, and urged action at the state level.

Mayor Jim Donchess provided an update on the Mayoral race as follows. His team is actively campaigning, and the Republican candidates were discussing cuts of city hall staff. He praised the additional school funding for Nashua provided in the state budget, which will help with property taxes. His campaign opened an office at 16 Main St for all Democratic candidates that have filed for municipal elections. The feedback from the campaign trail is the city is moving in the right direction. Yard signs are available in the campaign office on the following Friday. The campaign is planning for four mailings, with the first targeted for August 22. The mayor stated a new project at Monahan Manor will help residents with affordable housing. A mayoral debate is scheduled for September 6th by the Nashua Chamber of Commerce, which will charge for lunch. Vicki Donchess provided literature handouts. Republican Michael Soucy signs are going

up across the city, and he may prove to be a strong competitor with taxes the primary issue. The Mayor asked for help canvassing, and wants to canvass as a team. The campaign manager, Patrick Conway, stated that he had been canvassing for a few weeks and the response was good, and volunteers can sign up to help canvass on the website.

Derek Thibeault stated the Democrats have no fire commissioner candidates, with an open seat as Patrick Garant is not seeking re-election. Additionally, Susan Lavoie is considering running for the Board of Education. Regarding ward election officials, Ward 1 has identified election official candidates for all races. Ward 7 is looking for a moderator and selectman candidates.

Ward 8 has candidates for 3 races. Ward 2 is seeking a ward clerk and moderator. No Democratic candidates have been identified as election official candidates in ward 5.

Alderman Jette reminded to also ask people to volunteer as poll workers.

Committee Reports

Fundraising Committee

Derek Thibeault stated the BBQ raised at least as much money as the prior year, and thanked the Telerski's for hosting the event. Laura Telerski stated some items were left at her house from the BBQ, and reminded people to Save the Date for the Gala on October 5th at Sky Meadow. A team has been formed to prepare for the Gala. The team is looking for creative ideas for the silent auction, and tickets will go on sale a couple of weeks after the meeting starting at \$80.

The team is currently seeking a keynote speaker.

Manny Espitia stated the deposit has been paid for the Gala.

Derek Thibeault stated an email had been sent to candidates about literature buy in, with two responses to date.

Manny Espitia asked for donations to the NDCC, with a reminder that monthly contributions are particularly important.

Communications Committee

No report, Jim Ravan was absent

Candidate Recruitment Committee

Derek Thibeault stated Travis Bennett was considering a candidacy for ward 9 alderman.

Get 'Em Elected Committee

Derek Thibeault stated bids are being solicited for literature, and planned three mailings, with one focused on each of: ward aldermen, board of education, and alderman at-large. All city-wide candidates will be included on all mail pieces. A printing of walk cards is also planned. Alderwoman Klee suggested providing completed ballots as handouts.

Derek Thibeault asked members to contact him if interested in being a delegate to the NHDP convention. He stated city candidates should provide headshots and biographies for campaign literature.

Mayor Donchess described the Vote Builder walk lists plan.

New Business

Linda Gathright commented on the July committee meeting minutes that the bail reform concern raised at the prior meeting was understood at the State House, but is being incorrectly described as a problem with bail reform.

Announcements

Alderwoman Klee announced Parkfest would be held the following Sunday - rain or shine

Linda Gathright announced the "We Are One" festival in Manchester on August 19 at Memorial Park.

Teresa Moler announced the Greeley Park art show planned for August 19 and 20 with 50-60 artists featured.

Adjournment

Manny Espitia made a motion to adjourn at 8:19, which passed on a voice vote.