

Josephine County Democrats Executive Committee

Feb. 27, 2022

Zoom, 3 pm

Chair Dorothy Yetter said our next meeting will be on Code Enforcement. Josephine County Commissioner Dan DeYoung, County Counsel Wally Hicks and Community Development Director Mark Stevenson will give presentations on why the Code Enforcement ordinance passed by the Commission late last year is necessary to help curb illegal cannabis grows in the county. The Ordinance was put on the ballot by members of the Republican Party who were opposed to Code Enforcement so gathered enough signatures to qualify the matter to go on the ballot. Mark Seligman will be present to tell why voters should vote no on the referendum.

Following their presentations, PCPs will be asked if our Democratic Party should endorse or oppose the Code Enforcement measure coming up for a vote May 17. Colette Storms will present the pros and cons during the meeting.

Endorsement of ballot measures was discussed with Lynda Spangler noting that there isn't a uniform criteria for taking a stand one way or another because ballot measures are all different so it's a case-by-case examination of each issue and its importance to Democrats. Dorothy said she would take a look at our By Laws and standing rules to find out what we've included about that during the last revision.

Campaign Committee Report: Lynda S said they have been meeting with a couple of potential candidates to run against Commissioner Darin Fowler. They should know next week if they will run or not. Brady Keister announced he is running for state representative against Lily Morgan. Lynda D and Lynda S will help him gather information for his campaign.

Dorothy suggested we discuss with the recall group what went wrong and how what relationship Democrats should have with the Voters For Good Leadership (VFGL) group, which wants to go on to help recruit and promote good candidates for local elected positions.

Communications: This committee has regrouped with Vicky Palmerton, Colette Storms, Lynda Demsher and Dorothy taking care of the newsletter, publicity and other necessary communications. Dorothy said our Google Drive needs cleaning out. Sheri Morin volunteered to do that while doing her shift at the office. It was suggested documents no longer relevant be stored on a thumb drive.

The issue of the RV park expansion at Whitehorse Park was discussed with some present in favor of it while others were concerned about the number of trees that needed to be cut down for the expansion. Some were skeptical of the Parks Department claim that it would bring increased revenue to the county. Others were concerned about large RVs trying to navigate the narrow and crowded G Street in Grants Pass to and the curved Upper River Road.

Dorothy brought up the need for increasing Democrats' presence on committees and boards in the city and county. Kevin Marr said we need to pay more attention to school boards, particularly

Three Rivers. Dorothy said she has obtained a list of all the committee and board members in the county. Colette said she would go through the list to see how Democrats are represented here. Lynda S explained how she ran for a seat on the Merlin Parks Board and said Democrats don't have the presence Republicans do on various committees around the county. Sheri said in this county you may need a strong personality to wade into some Republican strongholds. Lynda S said she's generally been welcomed at meetings. Rebecca Anderson talked about her experience on the city Tourism Council dealing with bed tax issues and said the county has little experience with that. Kevin pointed out that most of the motels are in the city so a transient lodging tax wouldn't generate much in the county.

Office: Sheri said she changed the code to the office lockbox and will send out an email to everyone who needs it. She said she'd like to have an Open House April 30 from 10 a.m to 3 pm to remind voters to vote in the primary. She said she has contacted the Boatnik organizers about having a booth at the park this year but hasn't heard back.

Membership: Libby Watts is taking over the Membership committee.

Lynda S said we should have Democratic primary gubernatorial candidate Tobias Read scheduled for our April meeting and she will call him to schedule him during our 6:30 pm social. Commission candidates will also be there.