

# TDC Membership Meeting Minutes

## Thursday, April 27, 2023, Via Zoom

1. **Call to Order** – 7:05 pm Chair, HIRAK CHANDA
2. **Roll call of officers** - Recording Secretary, Regina Cable  
HIRAK CHANDA, Chair  
KELLY JONES, Vice Chair  
RENIS NUSHAJ, Treasurer  
REGINA CABLE, Recording Secretary  
RICK WOCHOSKI, Corresponding Secretary  
SADEK RAHMAN, Trustee  
ERICH GOETZ, Trustee  
KATHY MANN, Trustee
3. **Approval of Minutes** from March 23, 2023 Meeting RENIS NUSHAJ, 2<sup>nd</sup> KELLY JONES
4. **Reports of officers:** See in meeting discussions throughout the meeting.
  - 4.1. Chair, HIRAK CHANDA
  - 4.2. Vice Chair, KELLY JONES
  - 4.3. Treasurer, RENIS NUSHAJ
  - 4.4. Recording Secretary, REGINA CABLE
  - 4.5. Corresponding Secretary, RICK WOCHOSKI
  - 4.6. Trustees, SADEK RAHMAN, ERICH GOETZ, KATHY MANN
5. **Committee Reports:** None
6. **Unfinished business:**
  - 6.1. TDC Summer Picnic is on August 5, 2023 at Raintree Park 12pm – 4pm  
Please mark your calendar. Need Volunteers to lead.
7. **Postponed business:**
  - 7.1. Plan to expand TDC membership. Reaching out to strong Dems in Troy to join as members.  
Send message in Chat to see if membership is current. Follow link to ActBlue online.  
Membership fees fund activities, outreach of the TDC \$15/year
8. **New Business**
  - 8.1. **HIRAK CHANDA** - Things to get done while we have the Democratic majority in Lansing will discuss.  
Rep. Sharon MacDonell and Majority Floor Leader Rep. Abraham Aiyash are introduced.
    - 8.1.1. Majority Floor Leader & State Representative Abraham Aiyash, introduced by **KELLY JONES**  
Rep. Aiyash gave kudos to Rep. Sharon MacDonell, as an ally Sharon is incredibly helpful. Sharon keeps us rooted in what's important, accountable, and to continue to focus on our democratic values.  
**AGENA SHAH** asked how will the utilities be held accountable. Rep. Aiyash stated that there will be bills introduced before the Legislative Summer break. He cautioned that the utilities spent \$20 million in the last election cycle. They and their lobbyists yield a great deal of influence.

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Sharon MacDonell is one of the representatives that are drafting the legislation along with stakeholders.

**Sandy Burgess** asked what is the priority of the next fiscal budget. Will it include anything to address the conditions at the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Center? Rep. Aiyash responded that the Families, Children, and Seniors Committee of which Sharon MacDonell is a member will have influence on budget recommendations for the WCJDC. \$100 million is needed to correct shortfalls. Wayne County officials are asking the State to assist/address this issue.

When the budget was introduced, \$700 million was cut, but it is not anticipated to be permanent. If the general fund exceeds .54.25% it must be reduced to 54.05%. The budget reduction will likely come from education, infrastructure, air, land, and/or water budgets.

### 8.1.2. **State Representative Sharon MacDonell (MI 56)**

Has been incredibly busy but has not had the opportunity to speak officially on the House Floor.

Committees include: Transportation, Families/Seniors, Mental Health, Higher Education  
Passed gun safety, "Red Flag", Safe Storage laws

**Regina Cable** – Asked about Livingston County becoming a Constitutional County to circumvent the gun laws and legislation. The response was that the Attorney General will enforce this and all laws/legislation.

Repealed "Right to Work" Law, Third Grade Reading Law, 1931 Anti-Abortion Law

Also passed: Holidays recognized in Michigan: Lunar New Year, Diwali, 2 Jewish Holidays, Fred Koramatsu, Road funding, Distracted driving

Regarding Public Utilities: Sharon urges us to push the Utilities to be more reliable and accountable. The \$35 penalty for interrupted service was too light. DTE has asked for a huge 5% of 95% increase promising to improve the infrastructure.

**Steve Sadlier** asked whether there was a Line 5 discussion. **Sharon MacDonell** responded that it is not being addressed by the courts or legislature, attorney general, or the governor. There has been a shift in the governor's position and she is no longer challenging Line 5. A tunnel surrounding the pipeline to protect it from further erosion is proposed. Rep. Aiyash stated that Line 5 was built before the polio vaccine was invented. Rep. Aiyash stated that 15% of the world's fresh water is found in our Great Lakes. We need to protect our fresh water supply.

**Kelly Jones** stated that it is next to impossible to hold the utilities accountable. It is important to have reliable energy.

It was noted that the TDC will support the further building of noise barriers but that Senator Mike Weber representing Rochester, Rochester Hills, Troy, and Sterling Hts. is on the committee to allocate funding for roads. We need to stay in communication with Weber to press forward with funding and other initiatives, **Kent Douglass** stated.

Vote against librarians? No support from Sharon MacDonnell. Librarians serve all people regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

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**Erich Goetz** – Will Weber support librarians also?

**Kelly Jones** – Thanked Rep. Aiyash for spending time with the TDC membership.

**Sharon MacDonell** – Leader Aiyash is the best of the best! Sharon is very happy to see him as Speaker and is proud to work with him.

### 8.2 Fundraising ideas and formation of PAC – **Renis Nushaj**

Working on the PAC formation. Fundraising suggestions forthcoming discussion at future meeting(s).

### 8.3 Upcoming Troy City Council election.

2 positions on Council and the Mayor. Dave Hamilton is not running for re-election.

### 9. Good and Welfare

**XinHui Zhang** – The Middle School Honors' curriculum change may not be an issue for all parents but many have emailed school board members about the need for more dialogue with parents.

**Kelly Jones** – School board meetings are not forums for dialogue. A town hall style meeting may be an option to suggest so that voices can be heard on both sides of the issue.

### 10. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn Sharon MacDonell/2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Sadlier 8:31 pm