

Minutes
TDC Membership Meeting
Feb 23, 2023
Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order by Chair – HIRAK CHANDA at 7:01 p.m.
2. In Attendance: HIRAK CHANDA, KELLY JONES, RICH WOCHOSKI, REGINA CABLE, ERICH GOETZ, RENIS NUSHAJ, XINHUI ZHANG, KATHY MARTIN, ANN ERIKSON GAULT, LAURIE EVANS, MATTHEW DARGAY, TODD DAVIS, KATHLEEN FRANK, DOUG YANG, DR. THERESA BROOKS, ASHLEIGH JENNINGS, DYLAN MORRIS, TANYA GOETZ, JUSTINE GAILBRATH, PERTH GOSH
3. Roll call of officers - Recording Secretary
HIRAK CHANDA, Chair
KELLY JONES, Vice Chair
RENIS NUSAJ, Treasurer
REGINA CABLE, Recording Secretary
RICK WOCHOSKI, Corresponding Secretary - absent
SADEK RAHMAN, Trustee – absent
ERICH GOETZ, Trustee
KATHY MARTIN, Trustee
XINHUI ZHANG, Trustee
4. Approval of January 26, 2023 Minutes
4.1. Motion to approve: KELLY JONES Second: RENIS NUSHAJ
5. Reports of officers:
 - 5.1. Chair, HIRAK CHANDA - Our goal for 2023 as the TDC is to encourage and expand membership. We currently have 68 members. We will focus our attention on reaching out to strong Troy Dems, invite them to a fun event with TDC members, and encourage attendance at a future meeting with the hope that they will join. We will need volunteers to assist with the new member initiative. Also, we are staking steps to create a TDC PAC with similar parameters that Dem clubs in our surrounding areas use for their PACs.
 - 5.2. Vice Chair, KELLY JONES – Introduced DYLAN MORRIS from “No Future Without Today – Oxford. See below for Dylan’s introduction to the TDC.
 - 5.3. Treasurer, RENIS NUSHAJ – Will assist with the documentation and preparation of the TDC PAC. Renis continues to remind all of us how much we ask of our candidates and volunteers.
 - 5.4. Recording Secretary, REGINA CABLE – On 2-11-23, attended MDP Convention along with HIRAK CHANDA, KELLY JONES, SHARON MACDONELL, LAURIE EVANS, and others from OCDP. It was a very positive and celebratory event as we reflected on the successes of the State elections in 2022.
 - 5.5. Corresponding Secretary, RICH WOCHOSKI – absent
 - 5.6. Trustees, KATHY MARTIN – Trustee member since 2000; XINHUI ZHANG – New trustee in 2023

6. Committee Reports & Guest Presenters –

6.1. Laurie Evans - There will be an informational meeting for Troy Dems interested in becoming a Troy Precinct Delegate. We have a need to increase our Troy PDs and will host frequent opportunities to recruit more PDs, especially in precincts where there are no elected PDs. In March, there will be another event for delegates and volunteers. Laurie also mentioned the need to contact State Senator Weber and referenced his FaceBook posting.

6.2. Ashleigh Jennings – Reported on a weekly phone relay to oppose and prevent future gun violence.

XinHui Zhang asked if we should call or email. Ashleigh responded that both are needed. If no one answers a call, leave a message.

6.3 Dylan Morris and Jada: No Future Without Today – Oxford, Introduced by Kelly Jones
Hirak Chanda added that 'We will do what we can to support you'.

Dylan – Gun violence is preventable.

Social-emotional learning in schools is needed.

Respecting yourself and others.

Get young people involved.

Their voices need to be heard.

Support gun-sense legislation: Universal background checks, Magazine capacity limits, Assault weapons ban

Jada, Digital Director for No Future Without Today-Oxford

Jada is an OCC student and lifelong Oxford resident.

There was a very successful gun buy-back initiative in Oakland County.

Over 300 guns were gathered from the community members during the buy-back initiative. In addition, they had goody bags, gun locks, and gun registration drives.

Jada worked with College for Creative Studies in Detroit, as well as faith and union groups to discuss ways to prevent sources of gun violence such as unsafe storage of weapons and domestic abuse. Pamela Pugh, President, State Board of Ed. and Maddy Johnson are leaders in the preventable gun violence initiative.

Dylan Morris has been speaking to a variety of groups about gun violence prevention.

Ways we can help:

1. Talk to friends about gun violence prevention.
2. It should not be just the survivors talking.
3. Talk to conservative friends.
4. They are accepting donations for the work being done. Links were provided in the chat.
5. Email and call with easy scripted messages.
6. On 3/2/23 at 12 pm, supporters of gun legislation were needed in Lansing. Gun owners will be there with their weapons. Supporters are asked to be there before the gun lobbyists and those with open-carry weapons.

6.4 Kelly Jones & Matt Dargay for Sharon MacDonell:

Sharon MacDonell supports safe storage, background checks, and the other gun safety/violence prevention legislation being proposed.

More legislation will be proposed in the coming weeks.

Call Senator Weber's office. He won by only 700 votes and fully understands that he needs to be more a more left leaning Republican.

Laurie Evans was at Senator Weber's office hours before the MSU shootings. There was a strong turnout was asked about his support for the Red Flag Law. He said he couldn't support a law that was aimed against the 2nd Amendment. Laurie also mentioned that Weber stated he would "research", which is progress with Weber. We need to keep pressure on Weber to make sure he does his due diligence.

Kelly Jones feels that referencing the 2nd Amendment is both a distraction and a "tool" to weaken gun legislation. We want common sense gun legislation like the Red Flag for mental health. Legislators need to hear from us and others around the State, especially the Speaker/Majority Leader, Winnie Brinks.

Erich Geotz stated that when they talk about mental health issues, remind them that Engler and other Republicans are responsible for not supporting mental health.

Republicans completely defunded mental health in Michigan.

Todd Davis stated that the Red Flag legislation would address mental health as it relates to access to weapons.

Deena – Community health networks are essential and access to mental health support will take time.

Tanya Goetz – There are already gun laws, authorities are choosing not to enforce them.

Jada – If the laws were working, we wouldn't need universal background checks, safe storage, or Red Flag laws.

Justine Gailbrath – Change one word to include all guns. We don't have domestic abuse laws to restrict access to guns.

The safety of our children cannot be overstated. Love your children more than you love your guns.

Kelly Jones – Thanked Brian and Jada. Kelly would like to say, "What would you do differently if your child didn't come home from school one day? What would you do?"

7. City Council Election

7.1. Ann Erickson Gault and Dr. Theresa Brooks are on the ballot in November 2023. There is one open seat as well. Anna Abraham is not running. Who do we want as a progressive? Campaigning will begin in April.

7.2. Dr. Theresa Brooks and Ann Erickson Gault were last elected in 2019. Ethan Baker was also elected as mayor in 2019.

Current Council members have mutual respect for each other, which is important to maintain. Dr. Brooks mentioned that during early months of the COVID-19 pandemic if any of the Council members were anti-mask, the dynamic of the Council would have been very different.

Ann Erickson Gault completely agrees. She said that, “We don’t always agree, but we are agreeable”. We need rational candidates.

Perth Gosh – Complimented the council members and stated that we have a new comprehensive accountability that the previous council and management lacked.

Ann Erickson Gault – We now have a fully funded library which was our priority in 2019.

Dr. Theresa Brooks – In our newest Master Plan, we have included a goal to preserve green space and a cluster ordinance where smaller homes will be built with more green space surrounding them.

On Square Lake west of John R, there are 30 condo units preserving 70+ acres for a county park.

Kelly Jones asked where the cricket field will be located. Likely a softball field at Raintree Park will be repurposed as a cricket field.

A property tax question was asked. The Headley Amendment, school, library, county, bonds all affect property taxes. The City is the collection agency for all taxes. Troy has the lowest taxes of the surrounding communities.

Dr. Theresa Brooks stated that we have excellent city services for the taxes we pay.

Hirak Chanda thanked Ann and Theresa for their time and encouraged the TDC members to reach out to them with any questions and to offer to help with their campaigns.

8. Good and Welfare

8.1.1. Kelly Jones – Proud and excited to support Ann Erickson Gault and Dr. Theresa Brooks for Troy City Council in 2023. Also any interested candidates for the empty seat on TCC are encouraged to contact Ann and Theresa.

Laurie Evens – Asked is it OK with the TDC in-force to support Ann and Theresa? Can we use TDC funds to endorse candidates with the TDC logo?

Ann Erickson Gault – Good question. We are running as non-partisan, not Democrats. There was a strong fallout from Federal to Non-Partisan voting on the 2022 ballot.

Dr. Theresa Brooks – As we focus on issues and values, there is more support than focusing on party affiliation.

8.1.2. Jesse Chvojka – Body cameras for Troy police officers was a feather in the cap of Troy City Council.

8.1.3. Laurie Evans – On March 9, 2023, ACLU and city clubs of southeast Michigan will host a zoom meeting on voting rights

8.2. Next Meeting will be Thursday March 23, 2023

9. Call for Adjournment - Hirak Chanda. Second – Renis Nushaj 8:22 pm