



Minutes for DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

6:00 pm Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Mayor's conference room #1/ Virtual via Zoom

New Haven Democracy Fund Board, Sergio Rodriguez, Chair; William Wynn, Vice Chair

Members: Aaron Goode, James O'Connell, James Bhandary-Alexander, Lesley Heffel-McGuirk, Sarah Ficca.

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

- I. Call to Order & Attendance 6:04 pm
- II. Review of the Minutes from May 17, 2023 motioned by Heffel-McGuirk, Bhandary-Alexander seconded. 6-0-0.
- III. No. Public Comment
- IV. Chair's Report
 - A. Executive Board budget for 2023-2024
 - 1. With the increased funding available and with additional new members and fully formed board, Chair Rodriguez put together a proposed budget of \$12,800 which includes lines for conferences, outreach, the mayoral debate, and professional development.
 - 2. Motion to approve the NHDF executive discretionary budget as proposed by Heffel-McGuirk, seconded by Ficca. 6-0-0.
 - B. Debate subcommittee formation
 - 1. The debate subcommittee has the following members volunteering to assist with debate prep and marketing: Bhandary- Alexander, Heffel-McGuirk (chair), Ficca. This subcommittee would assist with logistics and marketing of the event as well as attend the night of.

Bhandary-Alexander mentioned that a priority of the event is having Spanish language interpretation available. Use city-property devices to save costs, and the Fund will pay for the translators.

O'Connell reminded the subcommittee that parking and sound tech were also important to keep in mind when choosing a venue.
- V. Administrator's Report
 - A. Summer Projects Update



New Haven Democracy Fund

"To ensure that all the citizens of New Haven have a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in the election of mayor."
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1. Hiring complete for summer data position.
2. Project 1 Update: Zoe Becker
 - a) Has been compiling financial filings from the past decade into statistical software, and splitting donors up by neighborhoods and wards, as well as in city/out of city/out of state. She is creating maps using neighborhood information provided by DataHaven. She has also been coordinating with the SEEC and City Clerk's office to acquire older filings.

B. 2023 Election Update

1. Participating candidates
 - a) Liam Brennan Audit for Initial Request for Funds totalled \$10,443.90 and the campaign has qualified for the NHDF grant, to be disbursed as soon as they achieve ballot access. The amount includes the matched fees from credit card processing, totalling \$149.92.
2. Other campaigns and committees - Second filing from the Abdussabur campaign anticipated in late June.

VI. Report from the Ordinance Review Sub-Committee (James Bhandary-Alexander, Chair) - Continues to be in a holding pattern until after the summer recess.

VII. New Business

- A. Charter revision item allows more people to participate in Boards and Commissions who may not be electors in the city. There was a healthy discussion among the board members about the allowing of residents who were not electors to serve on Boards and Commissions in New Haven. The idea had support from board members, though the Democracy Fund is specifically related to elections in the city. Should the charter be changed, the Board will examine the addition of new board members who inherently do not have a party affiliation as they are not registered voters.

Motion to adjourn made by Bhandary-Alexandar - alyheimer@gmail.com