

NAACP Howard County General Meeting Minutes

Date: June 28, 2018

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Wilde Lake High School Media Center 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, Md. 21044

Prayer

President's Report

*Candidates that ran for office include Saif Rehman for Board of Education; Jennifer Jones for Central Committee was successful; Judge Turner was re-elected; Hiruy was second in race for 3rd district.

*Straw Poll- Last meeting we had a straw poll for Board of Education candidates.

*Straw poll is a good first try. We don't have the infrastructure to get behind anyone.

*We want to see how we can get the right people in office.

*Hiruy has agreed to help with political affairs matters.

*We need to amp up outreach and really prepare for the next phase; not just for School Board; but also County Executive race.

*Both the School Board and the County Council will potentially have all new people.

*We need to create an agenda of important things to us and lobby them consistently.

*I am ending my first term and have to decide whether I will run. Tried to build relevance, fundraising etc. Go deep and build it up.

*Everyone needs to play a role so that no one gets overworked.

*The goal is to build an infrastructure.

* The 2018 convention is in San Antonio.

*We submitted a grant and got money for lodging and flights. 8 delegates and 1 alternate will be going from July 14th -19th.

*Everyone should take time to think about what you can contribute what role to play at the County level.

*We agreed at Executive Committee meeting to do a debate with the County Executive. Questions will be asked based on each committee.

*Elder Adult Forum is in September

*Economic Development Committee will do a presentation at the September meeting.

We have a break in August and will do a convention report in July.

Economic Development

- *Meetings are the second Thursday of the month at GE in Savage.
- *EBOC group that certifies and registers minority businesses in Howard County came to our meeting.
- *Next meeting Calvin Ball will be present to discuss legislative issues. Meeting starts at 6:30pm.
- *August 7, 2018, is Equal Pay Day for Women at Steel Fire Grille.
- *Takes black women one extra year to make what white male makes the prior year.
- *Having a work force and economic development forum to talk about jobs and training and Economic Development in Howard County.
- *Last year we worked with General Electric to hire college students and this year they wanted the students back.

MOTON: Motion made to approve general membership minutes from May 24, 2018. Motion was seconded.

Automation and Technology Task Force

- * Automation Technology is a social issue.
- *If you don't obtain the resources when little you won't be working for certain people.
- *There is job loss due to artificial intelligence.
- *Looking for volunteers for task force. Goal is to have status report in the fall.
- *Need recommendation of policies so that minorities can be involved and successful.
- *Reality is that teachers are teaching children for jobs that don't even exist.
- *Kids need to learn the critical thinking needed for coding.

Panel Discussion

* There was a panel discussion on Outlets to Wellness and Optimal Health organized by the Mark Brooks and the Health Care Committee.

*Panel consisted of Valerie Pogue (Health Wellness educator), Valencia Wood (Yoga Art Science), Glenn Scheider (Horizon Foundation), Shawni Paraska (Columbia Association), Kathy Zimmerman Johnson (Farmers Economic Development Association).

* The remainder of the meeting consisted of discussions and questions and answers about health.

Panel Discussion

Highlights

* Howard County different than other places and has what others do not. HC thinks of wellness in addition to healthcare.

- *People are encouraged to obtain physicals to catch things earlier.
- *Need more education around health insurance.
- ***How healthy are African Americans?:**
- *Overweight and obesity 61% in 2014 vs. 78% in 2018
- *Diabetes- 2% in 2012 vs. 10% in 2016
- *High Blood Pressure: Asians 16%; Hispanics 22%; White 26% African Americans 34%.
- *If you cannot comfortably do everything you want to do without limitations you probably need to improve your health.
- *300 farms left on less than 50 acres. They grow good food. There are six farmer's markets in the area.
- *Roving Radish- feeds a family of four and gives cooking directions for healthier meals. \$8:00 a week buying locally puts an extra \$16,000 in the economy.
- *Wellness encompasses the overall individual "SPICES" Spiritual, Physical, intellectual, care, emotional.
- *Valencia Wood and Joseph Murray, partners at Yoga Art and Science Camp that educates and rediscovers meditative aspects through motion *Mission is to educate and rediscover clarity through yoga, education and science and mindfulness. They teach 5-17 year olds and adults. They warn to be careful how you talk to yourself because that determines how you treat other people.
- *Carole Fisher did great work on raising the price of tobacco products. Worked with the Foundation to lead community change. They started when HC Hospital was sold to Hopkins.
- *Hopkins -90,000,000 endowment. Sale and proceeds stayed in the community to: promote healthy kids and families (sugary drinks down 20%); promote policies that support healthy living (Fresh fruits and vegetables in schools, biking and walking part of daily living); Mental Health (Make sure well equipped to handle); Aging (Speak easy Howard discussing wishes and communicating advanced care plan); Equity (don't just talk about disparity; but discuss and tackle structural barriers that create race disparity in treatment).
- *TOPS- Take off pounds sensibly is a program that helps with weight loss.

MOTION: Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.