

Black Austin Democrats
Meeting Minutes: Thursday, April 17, 2008
Offices of Travis County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1
1811 Springdale Rd., #110
Austin, TX 78721
Meeting Time: 6:00 p.m.

BAD members:

Present: Natomi Austin, Joi Harden, Darwin McKee, Evelyn McKee, Velva Price

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Natomi Austin, Vice President
- March minutes were not approved. The March and April minutes will be e-mailed to the body and the body will vote on the minutes at the May meeting.

New Business

a. Endorsement Meeting Planning

- The body agreed that it was too late to put together and conduct an endorsement meeting. There were two options proposed:
 - 1.) Joi agreed to look at the Travis County calendar to see if BAD could partner with another Democratic organization; or
 - 2.) Distribute via e-mail the returned candidate questionnaires to all the BAD members and the members return their endorsement to Fred by a date certain.

If there is another Democratic organization holding an endorsement meeting, BAD would ask that group if we could attend to conduct our endorsement as well. Joi agreed to e-mail Natomi and Fred the following day with either an organization in which we could partner, or if we needed to endorse by the questionnaires that Fred had sent the candidates.

b. SD14 and SD25 Democratic Party State Convention discussion

- Natomi spoke about the upcoming State Convention to be held June 6-7 at the Austin Convention Center. She stated to make sure to know Robert Rules of Order and the Party Rules.

Visitors

- Kate Morrow (Representative from State Rep. Valinda Bolton) came to introduce herself and ask for our help for this November election. In addition, she stated that if we have any issues, please do not hesitate to contact their office.
- Carlos Barrera thanked us for our endorsement and support and stated that he looked forward to working with us. He also stated that he thought he was a member of our organization and asked that we check our roster, so that if he is not, he can pay his dues.

Vice President's Comments

- Natomi stated that Fred is in Seattle, but was very excited about the number of members we had selected as either an alternate or delegate to attend the State Convention. The following BAD members were selected:
 - Sheryl Cole – Delegate
 - Richard Franklin – Alternate
 - Joi Harden – Delegate
 - Fred McGhee – Delegate
 - Darwin McKee – Delegate
 - Lora Livingston – Delegate
 - Gerard Washington – Delegate

Public Comments

- Natomi stated that it is extremely important that we find ways to build our membership at this pivotal time, and that we need to capitalize on this existing presidential race and the enthusiasm in the party. She stated that we must find ways to reach out to people more aggressively than we have in the past. One way mentioned was to have a social either lunch or dinner. Evelyn McKee stated we should combine the social with membership building – everyone brings a friend. Velva Price stated that we should try combining our social with another organization such as NESBE, Black MBA's, Black Lawyers Association, etc. We agreed to move forward on coordinating a social event.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.
- Minutes submitted by Joi Harden, Secretary