



Minutes

SUNY Broome Civic Engagement Board

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 4:00pm (via Zoom)

Members present: Jesse Boring, Chris Burger, Greg Deemie, Sharon Exley, Carla Michalak, Jackie Stapleton, Father Tim Taugher, Alison Twang, Michael Vasquez,

Excused: Ben Lainhardt, Giovanni Scaringi, Jackie Stapleton

Temporary Leave of Absence: Doug Garnar

1) Approval of Minutes of July 13, 2021: Minutes unanimously approved as written

Old Business

2) Continued Updating of Membership List

- Any Recommended New Members?

Sharon will email Logan to find out if he did ask Daniel Todd about joining us

Carla will email the PTODI Committee to see if someone would like to join the CEB

3) Racial Justice Deliberation Task Force update – Jesse

Jesse reported that Moderator Training is scheduled for Tuesday November 16th

He secured \$50 from PTODI to purchase food for the training

He invited a number of different campus groups to the training

Carla suggested that he email the faculty directly to announce the training in their classes

Chris B suggested that the CEB compile a list of trained moderators for future deliberations

The moderator training is valuable not just for the Racial Justice deliberation but for any deliberation that we might want to schedule/host in the near future



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4) Voter Engagement Committee Update – Linda

Meet and Greet the County Clerk:

- a. Only the Democratic candidate showed up, the Republican candidate withdrew 24 hours prior to the event
- b. The Meet and Greet was still held and we treated it as an educational event with Sharon explaining the role and responsibilities of the County Clerk position
- c. Unsure of why attendance was low: could it be due to the Republican candidate's withdrawal or possibly, low voter turnout or empathy towards the County Clerk race?
- d. How can we address this pervasive issue of citizens' lack of knowledge about local elections?
- e. Chris asked is there any way to follow the money to determine why the ballot initiatives were voted down.

Binghamton Mayoral Debate

- a. Sponsors: WSKG, SUNY Broome, BU's CEC, Appalachian Alumni
- b. Vaughn Golden served as the moderator
- c. The debate went quite well

The Voter Engagement Committee is anticipating the 2022 elections as there will be many! We are also discussing how to collaborate with high schools. Our meeting on February 1, 2022 we plan to continue this conversation.

We continue to discuss redistricting and three of our members participated in the local meeting.

There was a robust discussion that followed on how we can best educate voters on all elected positions. How can we as members of the Civic Engagement Board be positive catalysts?

We discussed that we should first get citizens interested in voting and then get them interested in running for office. We have lost sensibility, morality in our public discourse. Rudeness in general has increased, we are losing people in the service professions due to this increased rudeness.

Mike V suggested that we bring in two or three high profile figures and have them work with us on a video on voting? Greg D suggested that we use retired officials, your voice is your vote and both matter.



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Carla suggested creating a “did you know?” article/column in the press or to be shared on social media to educate voters on the roles of different election officials.

Sharon asked Mike V to create an outline proposal for the committee to consider so we can review and discuss at our next meeting.

New Business

5) Continue Zoom or In-Person?

For now we will continue to meet via Zoom.

6) The Promise of Democracy: Source Book For Use With National Issues Forums

If you are interested in a copy of this book, let Sharon know and she will let Doug know.

7) Board Member announcements/updates? None

8) Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

A Doodle Poll will be sent to determine the next meeting date and time.