

MINUTES

New Haven Democracy Fund Board
Regular Meeting
January 17, 2008

Present: Maria Lamberto (chair), Kevin Diadamo, Jennifer James, Caleb Kleppner, Stephen H. Kovel, Lori Kozlowski; Robert Wechsler (Administrator); one reporter from the New Haven Register

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 5:33

Approval of November 15 minutes

Public comments were requested, but none were offered

Election of Officers:

Elections must happen on an annual basis, according to the by-laws.
This is the annual meeting.

Nominations for Chair: Caleb unanimous
Nominations for Vice-Chair: Dennis, Lori 0-6
Nominations for Secretary: Jen -- unanimous
Nominations for Treasurer: Steve -- unanimous

Report on candidate qualification for matching funds and public financing grants:

We aren't getting some of the information we need based on reporting requirements. We need financial reports more often as well as notification as to when the election is contested.

General consensus seems to be to require, at a minimum, monthly reports, moving to weekly for the 42 days moving up to the election. Additionally, require the campaigns to report with 48 hours when it's a contested election and when the candidate hits the expenditure ceiling. Also, to require a financial statement when you agree to participate.

Some of the possible recommendations could be done through regulations by the Democracy Fund while others will have to be approved in the ordinance by the Board of Alderman. -- all financial reports should be in the ordinance.

Hopefully, we will be able to use the state's system for electronic filing so the information is more transparent.

Some members expressed confusion about the ability to take money from outside of New Haven -- Rob will write a report to discuss in further meetings.

Expenditure limits -- far too high especially considering what other cities spend. New Haven is spending more than 5 times what other cities are. It seems unlikely that anyone could ever raise this much inside the system. It could be a disincentive to participants.

Rob will send out a list of further topics to discuss.

No one else qualified for matching funds during the election.

Reporting:

Still waiting to hear about when to report to the State Elections enforcement commission

The report to the Board of Aldermen

They still haven't put in our new \$200,000.... Accounting says it will be done this week

The DemFund spent \$17, 683.20 last year

Of that \$11,850 was matching funds to the DeStefano Campaign

About \$250 to pizza and \$5,500 to Rob, Administrator

We have \$383,000 aprox with the \$200,000 pending

We're not going to ask for money from the Board of Aldermen

Motion to thank the outgoing Chair for her services.

Date for Next meeting February 11th at 5

Possible additional meeting February 28th at 5

Meeting adjourned 7:03PM