



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."
New Haven Code of General Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article XI, §2-821 • Established in 2007 • democracyfund@newhavenct.net



DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

6:15pm Wednesday April 27, 2020

Held Via Zoom Call

New Haven Democracy Fund Board:

Sergio Rodriguez, Chair

James O'Connell

William Wynn

Aaron Goode

(Three Seats Vacant)

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order & Attendance at 6:29 pm.

2. Approval of prior minutes (January 2020). Wynn motioned to approve the minutes. 3-0-0. Goode was not able to verbally join the vote due to connection issues.

3. Administrator's Report

- a. Financial Update - \$120,000 has been deposited into the New Haven Democracy Fund Account. The money has cleared. The board is interested in setting the money aside in a CD until next summer. Administrator will get rates.
- b. COVID-19 precautions and impact on the NHDF.

Due to the COVID-19 Crisis, board and commissions have moved online and voting via online conference is the new norm. This has caused delays in some city hall operations as those who are not furloughed are working from home. Online meetings come with their own set of difficulties - and every effort will be made to include as much of the interested public as possible in online meetings.

Elections impact - Changes are being made to elections in this state as a result of the crisis that may impact how we vote in Connecticut. Online voting, no excuse absentee ballots, and other measures are being discussed by the Governor and state legislators. No decision has yet been made to allow "no excuse" absentee ballots or to mail every ballot.

4. Report from the Chair

City Hall is officially closed for business and to the public - but the Mayor's office is actively monitoring the situation. This not being an election year for municipal government, the burden on the Democracy Fund Board is significantly less than it would be if we faced these public health challenges during the cycle.

5. Ordinance Changes & Bylaws Working Group Update

Administrator Heimer presented language edits to the Ordinance that would allow for, but do not yet expand the program and uniformly avoid gender pronouns in the document and when referring to the office of Mayor. William Wynn is chair of the Bylaws Working Group.

6. Public Comment

Al Lucas joined the call briefly to shared that other Boards and Commissions were also meeting virtually now, and that the Board of Alders would continue to do its work for the city, though everyone is working remotely.

7. New Business

None.