

Fayette County Republican Party

Executive Board Minutes

June 11, 2024

Call to Order: The Executive Board meeting of the Fayette County Republican party was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Invocation: The invocation was given by Cathy Vaught.

Pledge: The Pledge was led by Randy Ognio.

Secretary's Report:

Roll Call: Present were Chairman Elaine Kilgore, Second Vice Chair Sherry Harris, Secretary Cathy Vaught, Assistant Secretary Windy Blair, who arrived late, Treasurer Pily Oddo, who arrived late, Assistant Treasurer Rod Owen, and Immediate Past Chairman Randy Ognio. Absent was Third Vice Chair Walt Hanley, who provided a proxy. The First Vice Chair position remained vacant.

Approval of the Agenda: The meeting agenda was approved. Second Vice Chair Sherry Harris had some additional items to add to the agenda, namely working on the Event Center, a remark made at the last (June 6, 2024) Round Table discussion, and the terms of the FCRP insurance policy. A **motion** was made by Sherry to add these items to the agenda and was seconded by Elaine Kilgore. The **motion** carried.

Approval of the Minutes: A **motion** to approve the May 14, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Cathy Vaught and seconded by Sherry Harris except for an error on page 3, under New Business, where it read "Elaine requested an approval of up to \$1,000.00 a month to order new business and rack cards." Cathy Vaught said that this was a mistake and should read "Elaine requested an approval of up to \$1,000.00 to order new business and rack cards." Cathy said she would correct the mistake. The **motion** carried.

Chairman's Commentary: Elaine stated that she did not need to provide a commentary and would give the floor to Denise Ognio who was providing information concerning the proposed Trump Train event to be held on September 21, 2024. It would not be considered a rally, because calling it a rally would bring the insurance rates up. There is a need to obtain approval from the Executive Board. The Precinct Chairs will be asked to do various things to make this happen. She would like this to go on the calendar and be discussed at every upcoming meeting. The proposed date does not appear to conflict with any ongoing event in the area. She and Third Vice Chair Walt Hanley have already spoken with Michael from the TrumpForce47 Headquarters, who has agreed to represent the GOP at the event. A convoy is planned through Fayetteville and Peachtree City, which takes about 1 ½ hours. The last time this occurred, there were 100 vehicles, and there could be at least that many this time if not more. When the convoy returns to the Event Center, then the precinct leaders will host a hot dog event. Speakers and live music are also

planned. Debbie Dooley will also promote the event, once the proposal is approved. Sherry Harris made a **motion** to approve the Trump Train event. It was seconded by Cathy Vaught.

The **motion** passed unanimously. Projections will have to be made as far as financing the event is concerned. These will also need Board approval.

The discussion then moved to getting The Bridge facility from the Peachtree City First Baptist Church as our venue for the 2025 Precinct Caucus and the Fayette County Republican Convention. In 2023, we got these two events for \$1500.00. The cost was approximately \$1700.00 in 2024. The cost will be \$1500.00 for 2025. The Board needs to vote in \$26.00 for each event for a total of \$52.00 to reserve the venue. There is a cost for one of their (The Bridge) representatives to be present, which is factored into the overall cost. There is also a sound system cost of \$25.00 per hour. A **motion** was made by Randy to approve the \$52.00 cost to reserve the venue. It was seconded by Cathy. The **motion** carried.

An additional **motion** was made to make Denise the FCRP representative to the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce. The **motion** carried.

Treasurer's Report: The total income for May 2024 was \$6,070.30, which was \$3,443.95 up from the total income amount of \$2,626.35 in May 2023. With monthly expense totaling \$4,337.35, our net income totaled \$1,732.95 as compared to a negative balance of \$1,149.79 in May 2023. Our total liabilities and equity came to \$39,952.82, a \$20,288.16 increase compared to only \$19,664.66 in May 2023.

We need to keep \$50.00 in petty cash for our merchandise, in \$5.00 and \$1.00 bills. There needs to be a way to keep up with it, so that it can be replenished.

A **motion** was made by Randy to approve the financial report and was seconded by Cathy. The **motion** was unanimously approved.

Pily will also have to write a \$52.00 check to The Bridge to secure our reservation for the 2025 Precinct Caucus and Convention.

The discussion turned to getting bank account access for Elaine and Rod Owen. Pily said she had spent almost three hours at the bank trying to get this done. When she tried it from her office, the information was not saved. She was planning to return to the bank the next day to try and solve the problem.

Pily made a **motion** to approve the \$50.00 in petty cash. Randy moved to approve, and it was seconded by Cathy. The **motion** carried.

Second Vice Chair Report: Sherry did not have a formal report available. She said that new members were "trickling in". She plans on creating a list of members who need to be contacted as well as one for "those who think they are members but are not." She will ask people working in the office to help make calls to these individuals. Walt has created a list that can merge current Anedot data along with precinct

and voter information. The office is doing well, although there are three afternoons that are not covered. There are a couple of people who are interested. Diane Barlow is still conducting training. Angela Bean has taken over much of the FCRP website, and the Young Republicans would like to add a page. That will happen.

Third Vice Chair Report: None.

Secretary Comments: None.

Immediate Past Chairman: Randy mentioned that it's "budget time" for the County Commissioners. They're spending ten percent, which is not a lot, when you're talking millions of dollars. There is a request to reallocate funding from the 2004 and 2017 SPLOST. Part of that reallocation is to take away funding from the East Fayetteville bypass. Money had been moved before to fund the West Fayetteville bypass, so the East bypass had never been funded. None of the reallocations have come before the Transportation Committee, which is not being allowed to do their job.

Old Business: Elaine did not order new flyers because she is waiting for a good deal.

We have 10,000 pieces of candy for the July 4 parade.

The air conditioning was not working well, due to a burned-out wire. Elaine refunded \$850.00 to the individual who had rented the Event Center for a baby shower due to the air conditioning going out. Can we pre-order parts to avoid a catastrophe? In short, no. Randy said he would consult with his friend Ashley on how to best approach the problem.

New Business: Elaine is considering purchasing doorknocker rack cards featuring all the Republican candidates after the runoff. This will be tabled until the July Executive Board meeting until we can get more information.

A proposal was made to request donations from any visiting VIP guests to cover "operating expenses."

The first item of discussion requested by Sherry turned to working on the Event Center during the summer. Projects such as the front door, painting the kitchen, metal doors and the base boards, obtaining new ceiling tiles. Costs for painting and the ceiling tiles should not exceed \$500.00. We also have leftover paint. Elaine also estimated \$500.00 for the front door, possibly more. She would like to table the front door discussion until the July meeting. There is also leftover paint and paintbrushes from last year which can be freshened up. Sherry made a **motion** to allocate \$500.00 to touch up at the Event Center. It was seconded by Cathy. The **motion** was approved.

The second item Sherry wanted to discuss was a remark that was made at the June 6, 2024 roundtable meeting. Someone had said if they came to the Executive Board meeting, they would not be able to speak. A request was made to place the Executive Board meeting date that is open to members on the

calendar at the next monthly meeting, so everyone would know when it was taking place. They should be made welcome, with a time for public comment. There have also been people, mostly those who are nonmembers, making negative comments about the FCRP. There should be a public comment time made available. Randy Ognio disagreed, saying he was “not sure this is a door you want to open.” A time limit on comments would have to be established and adhered to. He said they don’t have to be a member to come listen to the Board, because it is an open meeting. There is nothing in the FCRP rules that say it is a closed meeting. But it becomes closed when there is an executive session. This question about open meetings needs to be brought before the Rules Committee. What are members paying for if any Democrat or anyone else can come and make public comment? We need structure and value that need to be protected.

Sherry also mentioned questions about insurance. Pily said our insurance does cover events. Who has the FCRP insurance policy? Pily said that she had it. Sherry said she heard it covered four events. Pily said she always consults with our policy provider before an event to make sure it is covered. Pily said the FCRP had two events this year. Sherry said we needed to know for sure what is covered. Rod Owen said special guest speakers, for example, should have their own coverage. He also said that even if we have enough to cover an event, if we are exceeding the fire marshal’s limit, there is the insurance company’s “out.” Sherry asked how our regular events are defined. Rod said it might be what is confined to the structure and usually takes place monthly. Sherry said she needed to know for sure. She added that this should not all be on Pily. There should be someone who reads the policy. Randy interjected that we have Marty Harbin, who has helped us many times with insurance. Although the insurance policy came from another state, it did come through the Harbin agency. We need to get a copy and have the agent tell us what’s in there. If this was obtained through another board, we still have not looked at it and need to. Pily said she would bring a copy. Randy said we could get Marty or his son Michael to come talk to us about it. We need to have the “Trump Train” covered and all the information required for the insurance company. Elaine said she would invite Marty to the July Executive Board Meeting to talk about the insurance policy.

Sherry said that we still need to talk about the budget.

It was confirmed that Denise was approved as our FCRP Fayette County Chamber of Commerce representative.

Motion to adjourn: A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting by Cathy. It was seconded by Sherry. The **motion** was approved.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

CATHY VAUGHT
SECRETARY
FCRP