

Fayette County GA Republican Party

Executive Board Minutes

July 13, 2023

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Present were Chairman Elaine Kilgore, 1st Vice Chair Dr. William Yarde, 3d Vice Chair Walt Hanley, Treasurer Pily Oddo, Asst Treasurer Rod Owen, Secretary Cathy Vaught, Asst Secretary Windy Blair, and Immediate Past Chairman Randy Ognio. 2d Vice Chair Sherry Harris was absent. This was enough to form a quorum. Guests included Angela Bean, in the capacity of Co-Chair of the FCRP Rules Committee, and Ken Murphy, former FRCP member.

Invocation: Cathy Vaught

Pledge of Allegiance: Elaine Kilgore

Acceptance of Agenda: Dr. Yarde **moved** to approve the agenda as written. It was seconded by Walt Hanley. The motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes: Cathy Vaught **moved** that the minutes from the last meeting of June 13, 2023, be approved as amended to read that the decision to terminate the FCRP subscription to the *Citizen* newspaper was decided by the Chairman and not by the 1st VC. The motion was seconded by Pily Oddo. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Commentary: Chairman Elaine Kilgore began with a discussion about the need for more Vice Chairs, due to the heavy workload carried by her and the three Vice Chairs, amounting to a 40-hour work week. She stated, "If I was not here, we wouldn't be able to function." Angela Bean reminded the board that "the original reason for reducing the size of the board was to enable a more adaptable board to quickly make decisions." Angela asked why we could not form more committees to serve under the Vice Chairs. She also reminded the board that board members can only be elected and removed by the County Committee, whereas committee members are appointed or removed by the Chairman. Angela continued by saying that the question becomes, "Are we just asking people to step up, or are we personally asking people to step up. When you ask for volunteers,

nobody steps up. You must appoint them. You must test drive someone as a Committee Chair, rather than as a Board Member.” The question becomes “What kinds of committees would we like to have in the rules?” Elaine said she would have to think about it, but “we need some help.”

Treasurer’s Report: The Profit and Loss report from June 2023 showed a total income of \$3,882.35 as opposed to a total income of \$2,222.00 from June 2022, or a total difference of \$1,660.35. Although expenses for June 2023 totaled \$3,474.96, the FCRP still maintained a positive balance of \$407.39. Total liabilities and equity shows a balance of \$20,772.05, or an increase of \$1,625.32 over the same period in 2022. In our case, the increase in assets is all cash increase.

There was one new membership in June 2023, plus donations.

Pily Oddo asked for a **motion** to pay \$591.32 for the insurance covering two FCRP (Precinct Caucus and Fayette County) conventions. The motion was made by Randy Ognio and seconded by Dr. Yarde. The motion was approved.

Pily also mentioned that Regions Bank has had a hold on some of the checks for security and will post them at a later date.

Pily proposed that we create a special account in Quick Books for a capital account to grow the account to save for and cover special projects, since we have to pay utility bills and other regular expenses. Elaine Kilgore recommended a rental team budget and placing the Event Center financial information on the Treasurer’s Report each month. Pily said that a special Quick Books account can be created for that. Rod Owen suggested that we look at how much money is appropriated to the Event Center and how much is appropriated to rentals. We need to see our liabilities for the Event Center.

Elaine asked if there was a way to send rental payments through Zelle or Venmo instead of someone having to come make the payment in person? Pily suggested creating a link on the website for payments. Randy Ognio mentioned that the payment cannot be made on the FCRP website. We have a separate website. 2d VC Sherry Harris would have to be consulted. Pily said that perhaps a Zelle account could be formed and perhaps Regions Bank can help.

Pily also mentioned that we need a contract for Mark Tennant outlining his duties and have him sign that. She also needs his email, because she is going to send his

W-9 form for him to complete. It must be completed each year. He will be paid \$300.00 monthly. The Board also needs to approve his position. A **motion** was made by Randy to approve Mark's position and was seconded by Cathy Vaught. The motion was approved.

Angela mentioned that we cannot approve a financial report without submitting it for an audit; otherwise, it puts the liability on the FCRP if we don't have verification. If everyone agrees with the report as written, it is, per Robert's Rules of Order, submitted as written for an audit. Elaine **proposed** that we accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Randy made the first **motion**, and this was seconded by Walt Hanley. The motion was approved.

A **motion** was made by Cathy to approve Mark Tennant as Custodian, and this was seconded by Dr. Yarde. The motion was carried out, with a plan to write an official document outlining his duties.

First Vice Chair Report: Dr. Yarde first discussed the FCRP representation at the Fayetteville Juneteenth celebration on June 19, 2023. The feedback was mostly positive, but there were some remarks, such as "Why are you in the party?", to which he responded, "Why not?".

Dr. Yarde also mentioned the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce will advertise the Event Center in all their social media. He was scheduled to meet with someone from the Chamber who is part of an advertising network, #chamberconnect, on Monday, July 17 to take photos. The advertising would likely begin on Wednesday, July 19. The service is free.

Dr. Yarde also spoke about the formation of the Teen Republican's group. Eddie Claytor wants to form it and Dr. Yarde said he would be helping him. The organization must be a 501-C4. It will cost us some money. Rod Owen questioned the benefit of forming another 501-C4 in the form of separating the funds and managing them internally opposed to forming another non-profit. It would be easier just to manage that internally. We had a Young Republicans group with Michael Harbin running it. It was handled internally. Elaine mentioned we could maybe combine the Teen Republicans with the Young Republicans. Angela mentioned that the Teen Republicans are not part of the Georgia Republican Party, but the Young Republicans are an allied group. The problem with the group trying to form earlier this year was that there is a requirement to have at least 10

members aged 18 and older, and they could not make the minimum on that. Angela suggested that the teens come to the Republican Party and just have social time. They can be a social group like the FCRP Men's Club. Randy recommended inviting the Teen Republicans to the next FCRP meeting and providing them a free breakfast.

Second Vice Chair Report: Elaine reiterated Sherry Harris' plan to continue with the current membership system to get more money, and then maybe afterwards go to a "year to year" system. There is also a plan to get all new members assigned to a precinct.

We would need to renew the memberships in October/ November. Our rentals are going up. Angela asked if it would be a good idea to include a clause on the membership form stating that the membership will automatically renew each year, unless the member cancels. Elaine asked if we could conduct a membership drive in October and have the membership still recur the following October. Angela mentioned that we would have to have a credit card on file. Pily asked if the membership occurred in October, would this cover the following year, in this case January- December 2024. Randy said there might be a problem retaining these credit cards on file if we don't have the system to support that. This could incur liabilities. Elaine then said that Brant Frost had that solution—the Anedot system. Pily said everyone can pay online.

Pily also suggested forming a committee to manage membership. They could call or email members and remind them that their membership renewal is due. Angela interjected by saying that this is the purpose of a committee, because the Vice Chair is not a membership committee, but right now is doing the work of a membership committee. Rod asked about other systems used by organizations that retain credit cards on file but prevent outsiders having access to them. Walt said they were out there. Rod replied there had to be, since there are so many entities that automatically renew. Walt said the purpose of Pay Pal is that the company never sees the credit card. They just receive the payment. Rod said it was well and good to want to form a committee to call people, but in this age of automation, let's automate it. Pily mentioned that there were two members that automatically paid America's Red Wave every month, but they initiated it, not the

FCRP. Pily then said that for now, we need a committee to remind everyone every month.

Pily made a **motion** to start membership renewal by October 1 to receive payment for the following year. Elaine said members can pay online or at Saturday breakfast. Randy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Pily said that Square was used to process our credit cards. Angela said that Square is capable of setting up a recurring system and that Pily could set it up. All the credit card information could be taken, and the member reminded that the membership will automatically be renewed unless the member decides to cancel. The membership forms need to be updated to reflect this. Angela said she may start doing this for the Women's Club. The membership amount will remain the same.

Pily said we needed to mention the new rental rates, which are the same as the Chamber of Commerce rates. Elaine said we are going to have to let people buy a whole day. People came in on Friday nights to set up and then returned on Saturday. Technically, Friday should have counted as a day. It costs \$650.00 for a whole day on weekends, but it is cheaper during the week. It was recommended we also charge a \$50.00 cleaning or "sanitizing" fee. The security deposit is a guarantee against property damage, but the cleaning fee is for sanitizing the bathroom or the kitchen afterwards. They should do some of the cleaning themselves, otherwise they will leave trash, etc.

Dr. Yarde mentioned that the fire extinguisher needed to be inspected. He had been calling the company that conducts the inspections and had been told each time that someone would contact him and set up a date, but no one had called. Pily Oddo then said they had called her. They were scheduled to come on Wednesday, June 19 between 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, and would call her when they were coming.

Elaine went on to mention that the email blasts were going out, the hidden page on our website to store our minutes, Treasurer's reports and other important documents. A fundraising letter was sent out and we had only one come back.

A **motion** was made by Cathy to immediately adopt the Chamber of Commerce rental rates plus the \$50.00 sanitizing fee as the new FCRP rates as attached.

Angela mentioned that the FCRP needs a membership “benefits” package, because there is really no incentive to pay \$75.00 a year to become a member of this party. This benefit should include discounts for breakfast, discounts for events, and discounts for rentals. She also suggested that we list businesses on our website, called “Conservatives Doing Business with Conservatives”, so that we know who in this county does what, so we can do business with them. Members could do that for free, but if you are a non-member, you would pay \$25.00 a month to have your business listed. The **motion** was seconded by Walt. The motion passed. (See attachment for rental rates).

Pily asked about the Treasurer’s report and other documents being included on the FCRP website. Elaine said that Sherry had created a private web page hidden from the public that can only be accessed by certain members. It is a “non-published” folder.

Third Vice Chair Report: Walt said that Elaine had asked him to investigate major provider services to see if we can reduce our rates. AT & T only offers DSL and no fiber service, and their rates are higher than what we are paying already. The other service is COMCAST, and we are currently without a contract from them. The current rate we are paying for a 75 MB plan is still the rate that we were paying when the contract ended. COMCAST is now having a promotion, which means we must adopt a new service. If we take a cell service, we qualify for a two-year plan, which includes a 250 MB internet service. The plan includes a dedicated IP address that never changes, with a lease fee on the router, there is an inbuilt firewall, along with a phone line, cell service for a two-year monthly cost of \$156.00. If we drop the cell phone, the rate goes up to \$170.00. We can get the cell phone and put it in a drawer or use it for rentals. The “downside” is that we are committed to two years to pay for it. We save over \$120.00 a month. We keep the existing line and number, plus a cell phone with a new number. The cell phone is not under an unlimited data plan, and is only 1 GB, so you want to turn it off. You can make phone calls, but cannot download any data, etc. Calls on our current line are being forwarded to Elaine, whose voice mail says “Hi, this is Elaine and the Fayette County Event Center.”, with no references made to the FCRP. The problem is that any Republicans calling may think they have reached the wrong number. For this reason, we should maybe use the cell phone. Walt also suggested setting up “Google Voice”, which gives you a phone number that can be forwarded to

multiple people. It can ring up to three people, and whoever answers it takes the call. It can be set up so that the individual answering knows that this is an Event Center call. Elaine or Dr. Yarde could keep the cell phone. Pily asked how much “internet only” would cost. She knows of a system called “Magic Jack”, where you only pay \$100.00 monthly for five years. This also includes phone service. Angela said that these types of deals usually involve a rate hike after a while.

Cathy made a **motion** to adopt the COMCAST plan for phone, cell, and internet as written. This was seconded by Dr. Yarde. The motion carried.

We have no TV plan. Elaine bought a new TV with ROKU for the office, but not the Event Center.

The discussion moved to the HVAC controls. There were renters complaining about the temperatures at the Event Center being too hot or too cold. With the air conditioning turned off, it takes a long time to cool down the room. A way to solve this problem is to investigate smart thermostats, whereby multiple individuals with phone apps can raise or lower the temperature, so we don’t have to worry about cooling or heating and keeping our utility bills lower. Walt went ahead and ordered two smart thermostats on sale but offered to send them back if we do not want to approve them. The AC is set up as one for each unit, and there are two units on the Event Center wall next to each other. The cost is \$181.00 for both. An adapter may have to be purchased. The Google Nest thermostats are the best for running on different types of wires.

Cathy made a **motion** that we buy two Google Nest thermostats, with a possible adapter for \$200.00. Walt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion moved onto some other type of document storage where Cathy could share documents with others on another system other than GoDaddy. This would cost \$12.00 monthly, but Walt needs to work on this some more.

Immediate Past Chair Report: Randy mentioned the Peachtree City Fourth of July parade, which was well attended and wanted to thank all FCRP members who had participated with golf carts and in the march. The big problem was running out of candy, but he stated that it is always hard to plan for enough candy. Angela suggested investing in Republican Party Cards instead of candy, as many paraded spectators were disappointed when she ran out of cards. Randy also

recommended that the FCRP do something to recognize the Teen Republicans. Elaine said she would invite them. Randy also mentioned that GA GOP Chairman Josh McKoon has welcomed state Representative Mesha Mainor, who switched her party from Democratic to Republican, to the Republican party. After much “thought and prayer”, Mainor decided that the Democratic party no longer had her interests at heart. Rod asked if there was a chance we could invite her to one of our breakfasts. Elaine said she would invite her.

Elaine then moved the discussion to Robert Kelly, who has sometime visited with her when she was working at the FCRP office. He would like to “borrow” our Event Center for a classical charter school that offers school choice on July 27 at 6:30 pm. He is a new Republican, who has worked for the Democrats, and he could no longer stomach it, because they did whatever they wanted to do. Part of the Republican platform is school choice. Elaine is happy to have him. He said his wife might come to the Women’s Club. Elaine said she would like to do this for him, and we don’t have to do it again, only for one time. We could let him use the Event Center as a goodwill gesture for one and a half hours. He has not had a chance to join the FCRP. We could let him use the Event Center if he agrees to join the Party. Elaine then made a **motion** if Robert Kelly joins the Republican Party, then he is allowed to have a one-time informational meeting about the charter school. The motion was seconded by Cathy. The motion was approved.

Robert Kelly said this event was not meant to be political, since charter schools are open to all. He also knows Mesha Mainor.

Old Business: Elaine will order a cake and get a \$100.00 gift card for outgoing custodian Greg Clifton and present those to him at the next FCRP meeting. Greg is also going to leave the TV and vacuum cleaner. A lot has been done to improve the Event Center. The oven has been fixed as have the broken tables, there are new fire exit signs, the walls have been painted, and Calvin Kilgore will address the rotten trim on the outside doors. We have discussed possible action new membership procedures for 2024.

New Business: Elaine mentioned that she had had the Event Center painted by volunteers, but the end results were unsatisfactory. Elaine solicited a couple of \$100.00 donations, but they were not sufficient to cover the costs. Elaine said she and Calvin ended up paying \$1500.00. She is hoping to get some checks in the

amount of \$700-800.00. Pily said she could receive a check for \$650.00. Elaine also mentioned that Tamara Favorito would present Poll Watching 101 at the August meeting, while Sandy Brown would present a speech on the Lesser Magistrate at the September meeting.

Elaine then stated that she needed \$250.00 to purchase a smart door lock for the Event Center. An app can be used to generate a new code for a rental person, so they don't know that 2019 is our number. The renter's code goes away after use. This would also increase security.

Elaine then proposed the purchase of a smart door lock for \$250.00. She realizes that we are now spending a lot of money, but the long-term benefits of all the improvements will make it worthwhile. Pily admonished all to be careful about spending the money we do have, since we are short on membership and rentals, and we still need to pay the bills. Being able to change the code on the door lock gives us an advantage.

A **motion** was made by Elaine to reimburse Elaine in the amount of \$650.00 for painting the event center. The motion was seconded by Pily. The motion passed unanimously.

A **motion** was made by Cathy to approve the purchase of a smart door handle in the amount of \$250-300.00. The motion was seconded by Walt. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Attachment to the July 13, 2023 Minutes

Chamber of Commerce Rental Prices as Agreed Upon by the FCRP Executive Board, effective July 13, 2023. A \$50.00 “Sanitizing Fee” is added to each rental.

Mon – Fri	Regular Price	Member Price
8 AM – 5PM		25% Off
Half Day	\$250	\$187.50
Full Day	\$450	\$337.50
Nights and Weekends	Regular Price	Member Price
Half Day	\$450	\$337.50
Full Day	\$ 650	\$487.50
Weekend	\$1,250	\$937.50