

**MINUTES**  
**NCDP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING**  
**September 14, 2023**

**State Chair Anderson Clayton called the Zoom meeting to order at approximately 6:00PM.**

**Secretary Melvin Williams conducted the roll call which showed the following members were present:**

<b>Anderson Clayton</b>	<b>Maurice Holland, Jr.</b>
<b>Jonah Garson</b>	<b>Doug Auer</b>
<b>Dr. Kimberly Hardy</b>	<b>Katie Dean</b>
<b>Melvin Williams</b>	<b>Lisa Ellsworth</b>
<b>Kevin Clark</b>	<b>Colette Alston</b>
<b>Deniese Chaney</b>	<b>Minu Lee</b>
<b>Kelvin Stallings</b>	<b>Paula Shelton</b>
<b>Jenna Kubiak</b>	<b>Pam McAfee</b>
<b>Grayson Barnette</b>	<b>Randy Voller</b>
<b>Nida Allam</b>	<b>Ryan Jenkins</b>
<b>Connie Green-Johnson</b>	<b>Vince Vezza</b>
<b>Carl Newman</b>	<b>Daniel Patterson</b>
<b>Lainey Edmisten</b>	<b>Dr. Vikki Andrews</b>
<b>Aisha Dew</b>	<b>Anna Rios</b>
<b>Chris Hardee</b>	<b>Dr. Paul McAllister</b>
<b>Dr. Wesley Boykin</b>	<b>Zach Finley</b>
<b>Diana Robinson</b>	<b>Katherine Jeanes</b>
<b>Charlie Wallin</b>	<b>DD Adams</b>
<b>Tom Simmons</b>	<b>Matt Hughes</b>
<b>John Verdejo</b>	<b>Nigel Bristow</b>

**Since 40 of the 55 Voting Members were present, a quorum was declared. One non-voting member, David Parker, was present.**

**Chair Anderson Clayton reviewed past actions concerning the formation of a Jewish Caucus. The June 24<sup>th</sup> SEC meeting gave conditional approval to the Jewish Caucus (Throughout these minutes this group will be referred to as “the first Jewish group.”) A second group which was trying to establish a Jewish Caucus was not given approval.**

**On July 11<sup>th</sup> the Auxiliary Organizations Committee gave the Jewish Caucus 45 days to meet all SEC requirements. This 45-day period will end on September 25<sup>th</sup>. These requirements included holding an open Jewish Caucus convention.**

**On August 15<sup>th</sup> the first Jewish group sent a letter to the State Chair saying they could not hold the required convention within the stated period of time. On August 22<sup>nd</sup> this group requested a meeting with NCDP leaders.**

**This meeting was held on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Included in this meeting were Ed Binanay, Minu Lee, Nazzim Nadin, Tyler Beall and leaders of the first Jewish group. At this meeting Chair Clayton emphasized that the new caucus must meet all six mandated steps.**

**This first Jewish Caucus group said they could not hold a convention by September 25<sup>th</sup>. They asked for the deadline to be extended until October 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Chair Clayton approved this request for an extension because of the Jewish High Holy Days.**

**Chair Clayton explained that the reason for tonight's September 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Council meeting was to approve or disapprove her extension of the deadline to October 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Rev. Dr. Paul McAllister, President of the NCDP Interfaith Caucus, expressed strong opposition to granting the extension until October 15<sup>th</sup>. He asked by what authority was the extension granted when the Plan of Organization doesn't allow an extension? He said the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was not open. He and the Vice President of the Interfaith Caucus were asked to leave that meeting. He said that all the issues involved in this issue have not been brought forward in tonight's Executive Council meeting. He called on the Council to slow down and process all the issues involved. He said it would be unjust to approve the extension.**

**Dr. McAllister called on the Council to follow the POO process and take no swift decisions. He said it is important to follow the POO process.**

**Nazim Uddin said the reasons the first Jewish group should not be approved have not even been presented yet. He called for the Council to take time and process all information so a good decision can be made.**

**Lisa Ellsworth asked if there was a motion on the floor. The Chair replied that no motion was on the floor.**

**Minu Lee made comments on the Jewish Caucus issue.**

**Nida Allam talked about the fact that a Muslim Caucus is a subcommittee of the Interfaith Caucus.**

**Chair Clayton said there is a second Jewish group which wants to be the authorized Jewish Caucus.**

**Ryan Jenkins reported that Parliamentarian Vinod Thomas has ruled that the first Jewish Caucus refused to allow all Democrats to vote on the Jewish Caucus bylaws. He asked if complaints have been hidden, buried, or delayed.**

**Chair Clayton replied that no complaints have been buried. First Vice Chair Jonah Garson said that no one has tried to bury or delay anything.**

**John Verdejo stated that he was not sure this conference call was warranted. He emphasized that the Jewish Caucus is not yet an official group. He said we are dishonoring the wishes of the SEC by granting an extension. He said the Jewish Caucus had refused to do what the SEC asked. He said "We should have stuck with the rules."**

**Pam McAfee discussed the Jewish Caucus. She asked if there is a second Jewish Caucus. Chair Clayton said the second group is not a valid group. Pam said that one person should not have made the decision to extend the Jewish Caucus deadline.**

**Matt Hughes said the Council should grant the extension.**

**Jeff Beirer, Second Vice Chair of the first Jewish group, expressed his opinions on the chartering of the first group.**

**David Parker made a motion to grant the 30-day extension requested by the first Jewish Caucus group. Doug Auer seconded his motion.**

**Lisa Ellsworth asked if all Democrats can vote on the bylaws of the Jewish Caucus. Chair Clayton said all Democrats can vote on the bylaws of the Jewish Caucus. Then only Jewish Caucus members will be allowed to vote on the business matters of the Jewish Caucus. She said some obstacles were not made in good faith.**

**Dr. McAllister spoke against this motion because the Council has not yet heard a valid explanation of what has happened in recent months. The Council has not had a chance to review all the information. He related that some members of the first Jewish group have tried to get the State Party Secretary to change the Minutes of the June 24<sup>th</sup> SEC meeting.**

**Dr. Wesley Boykin said that he has not had the chance to review all the information on this issue. He said that being informed matters, process matters, and rules matter.**

**Kevin Clark called the question on David Parker's motion to approve the 30-day extension.**

**Denise Adams said she could not vote for a motion on which all the information has not been available for viewing.**

**Kelvin Stallings asked if there needs to be a vote on Kevin Clark's motion to close debate on the motion. David Parker explained that such a vote is not needed unless 20% of the Council requests one. Chair Clayton asked if there was any objection to voting on David Parker's motion to approve the State Chair's granting of an extension to the first Jewish group. No objection was voiced.**

**The Council then cast the following vote on David Parker's motion to approve the State Chair's granting of a 30-day extension :**

**In Favor - 18**

**Against - 5**

**Abstain - 12**

**The State Chair said this vote means the first Jewish group will have until October 15<sup>th</sup> to hold an open convention and write bylaws.**

**Randy Voller urged everyone to be in unity with each other.**

**Katie Deans asked if this means there will be two Jewish Caucuses.**

**Dr. McAllister said "Yes" because there is a Jewish Caucus within the InterFaith Caucus. That group was granted a charter within the InterFaith Caucus during the second week of June.**

**He said the name of the group within the InterFaith Caucus is: "JEWISH DEMOCRATS OF THE NCDP." Their initials are "JDNCDP."**

**Dr. Vickie Andrews said if Council Members can't get all the information to read, we can not make good decisions.**

**Chair Clayton said she will send a copy of Ed Binanay's report on auxiliary groups to all auxiliaries.**

**Jeff Bierer, Second Vice Chair of the first Jewish group, said his group has received final feedback on the Auxiliaries Organization committee's decisions. He said his Jewish Caucus welcomes all Jews.**

**Chair Clayton said all Democrats can vote on approving the Jewish Caucus.**

**Our State Chair then said that Justice Anita Earls does not want the Party to make a statement about her situation. Colette Alston said that Justice Earls said the African American Caucus can contact some African American leaders on her behalf. Chair Clayton said she will talk with Justice Earls again.**

**John Verdejo asked how the search for an NCDP Executive Director was going. Chair Clayton reported that she had recently held interviews with two good candidates. She also said the DNC has sent to her resumes of two candidates and that she will interview both of them. She expressed hope that a new ED can be appointed by the end of September.**

**Chair Clayton informed the Council of the hiring of Nia Levien as our Party Affairs Organizing Director and Tommy Mattocks as Communications Director. She said she is conducting searches for an Organizing Director, a Training Director, and a Data Director.**

**She invited everyone to join an anti-gun violence rally with Tennessee Representative Justin Jones at 2PM on June 17 at Halifax Mall.**

**David Parker made a motion to adjourn and Zack Finley seconded his motion. The motion was passed without opposition.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Melvin Williams, State Secretary  
North Carolina Democratic Party**

**Secretary's Note: All NCDP minutes are written in bold font to enable visually impaired Democrats to read them.**