

**MINUTES
NCDP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL – BY ZOOM
NOVEMBER 12, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by NCDP State Chair Anderson Clayton at approximately 6:00PM.

The Chair recognized new NCDP Executive Director Kian Sadjadi. Mr. Sadjadi greeted the Council members.

Chair Clayton reported that 75 people were on this Zoom call.

The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

As she called for a Moment of Silence the State Chair invited Members to remember that 12 NC State students had committed suicide over the past year and to remember all people who were having mental health problems.

The roll call showed that 49 of the 55 Council Members were attending the meeting. Therefore, a Quorum was declared to be present.

Ryan Jenkins made a motion to approve the proposed Agenda. His motion was seconded by Dorian Palmer.

Second Vice Chair Dr. Kimberly Hardy reported on the process of mediation which had been employed concerning the proposed Jewish Caucus and stated that this issue had now been turned over to the Council of Review.

Bob Hyman said that Matt Sadinsky had resigned from the position of President of the proposed Jewish Caucus earlier that afternoon.

Chair Clayton stated that some misinformation had been passed around in the past concerning a proposed Muslim Caucus. She said the Executive Council has never rejected a proposed Muslim Caucus.

Aisha Dew said the idea of forming a religious caucus is unprecedented and different. She said the formation of a Jewish Caucus could lead to the formation of many different religious caucuses.

Dr. Paul McAllister said we need clarification of what happened to the proposed Muslim Caucus and he asked for Nita Allam to be allowed to relate the Muslim issue to the Council.

County Commissioner Nida Allam recounted what happened to the idea of establishing a Muslim Caucus. She said the Headquarters staff advised against formation of a Muslim Caucus. She said attention shifted to forming an Interfaith Caucus as an overarching caucus which would have chapters within it for various religious caucuses.

Saletta Urena expressed her concern that a COR complaint had been filed several months ago and still had not been settled. Shelia Huggins discussed the process for authorizing affiliated auxiliaries.

Ryan Jenkins made a motion for the meeting to go into Executive Session with only Council Members allowed to listen in. Dorian Palmer seconded his motion. Parliamentarian Vinod Thomas ruled that the Council could not go into Executive Session because no attorney was present.

Ed Binanay reported that a 14-page letter was sent to Executive Council Members about the authorization of caucuses. He said that in their June 24, 2023 meeting SEC Members voted on which caucuses could be formed and which could be approved only after meeting certain conditions.

He said that seven conditions were specified for the proposed Jewish caucus. His committee was charged with the responsibility of determining if those seven conditions were met.

Ed said that on August 6th his AO committee met with the leaders of the proposed Jewish caucus. He pointed out that on September 14 the Executive Council voted to extend the deadline for a proposed new Jewish Caucus to October 14th. He said that this proposed convention was held on October 15th.

Pam McAfee said she was hired as an independent contractor to help with the Zoom meeting which voted on a proposed Jewish Caucus.

Ed said that Matt Sadinsky and Jeff Bierer were in charge of admitting people to the convention and that Pam McAfee was in charge of determining if each of those people were registered as a Democrat.

Ed Binanay said twice that this was a “very chaotic” convention. He was concerned about how many people were denied entry.

Someone asked how many people wanted to enter the meeting but were not admitted. That question was ruled out of order. Pam said

that overall she was satisfied that the proposed Jewish Caucus had “completed” its convention.

Ed’s lengthy report included the following items:

- Ed said the reported numbers of those denied entry to the convention varied greatly depending on who was speaking. He said that 750 people expressed interest in attending the convention and that at one point it was reported that 613 people were credentialed to attend the convention.

- Reports said that between 18%- and 38% of Democrats were denied entry.

- Ed Binanay said that at one point it was stated that 343 Democrats were attending the convention. He said he wished he knew how many people were stuck in the waiting room and not allowed to come into the convention. He said it was reported to him that at least 230 people were not allowed to enter.

- Ed said that at one point it was stated that 18% were not allowed admission.

- At another point it was reported that 38% were not allowed admission.

- He reported that at one point Jeff Bierer said only two people were denied admission and at another point Jeff Bierer said that at no time did they know how many people were in the waiting room.

- Ed said that at one time it was stated that 100 Palestinian supporters had registered for the convention.

- At one point Matt Sadinsky stated there were 480 people in the convention. At another point Mr. Sadinsky said there were 360 people in the convention.

- Ed explained these widely differing reports on the number made it difficult for the Auxillary Organization committee to determine whether the October 15th convention was an “open” convention as required by the SEC.

Conclusion: Ed Binanay agreed that the proposed Jewish Caucus had met six of the seven conditions required by the SEC. Ed Binanay said that his AO committee tried to determine if the convention was “open” to all Democrats as the rules required. He said his committee could not reach a consensus about whether the convention was an “open” convention as required by the SEC. Therefore, his committee

decided to turn the “open” convention question over to the Executive Council. It would be up to the Executive Council to decide if the convention was “open.”

Ed Binanay mentioned an email from Kevyn Creech but the State Chair asked him not to read all of it to the Council because people were leaving the Zoom call

Ed Binanay then ended his report.

Pam McAfee disagreed with some of the items of Ed Benanay’s report and said she thought that the convention had met the “open” requirement as laid out by the SEC.

John Verdejo asked why two Jewish caucuses were needed? He also asked if the Executive Committee needed so many caucuses?

Matt Hughes made a motion to approve the proposed Jewish Caucus. His motion was seconded by Maurice Holland. The Chair announced there would be a ten minute period of time for discussion.

Lisa Ellsworth made a motion to limit debate to one minute per person. Connie Green-Johnson seconded the motion. On a raised hand vote there were 26 “Yes” votes and 11 “No” votes.

The following people spoke in favor of the motion to approve the proposed Jewish Caucus: Bob Hyman, Aisha Dew, Matt Hughes, and David Parker.

The following people spoke against the motion: Ryan Jenkins, Dr. Grace Galloway, John Verdejo.

Dr. McAllister raised a point of information about whether the proposed Jewish Caucus was to be an advocate of Zionism.

Dr. Grace Galloway made a motion to indefinitely postpone a vote on approving the proposed Jewish caucus. An unidentified Member seconded her motion. Matt Hughes objected. Vinod Thomas ruled that Dr. Galloway’s motion was in order.

After a period of discussion, Chair Clayton stated that no one in the Democratic Party is “lowly” or “rank and file.”

Tyler Beale made a motion to limit discussion on Dr. Galloway’s motion to one minute per person. Dorian Palmer seconded his motion.

Voting by hand the Council voted 21 - 4 to approve Tyler’s motion to limit discussion to one minute.

The following people spoke in favor of Dr. Galloway's motion to indefinitely postpone a vote on approving the proposed Jewish caucus: Dr. Grace Galloway, Ryan Jenkins, and Dr. Paul McAllister.

The following people spoke against Dr. Galloway's motion: Pam McAfee, Lisa Ellsworth, and Matt Hughes.

Nida Allam made a motion to call for the question. Dorian Palmer seconded her motion. 27 Members voted to approve the call for the question. One Member voted against the motion.

Dr. Paul McAlister, Bob Hyman, and Lisa Ellsworth spoke about the proposed Jewish caucus.

The Council then voted on Dr. Galloway's motion to indefinitely postpone a vote on the proposed Jewish caucus. There were 13 "Yes" votes and 18 "No" votes and 5 Members abstained.

Doug Auer made a motion for the main vote on the proposed Jewish caucus to be conducted by a roll call vote. His motion was seconded by Zack Finley.

However, the State Chair put a completely different question to the Council Members. She asked them to vote on whether they were ready to take a vote on the proposed Jewish caucus. She did not mention a "roll call vote." There were 28 votes in favor and no votes against.

The vote on the motion to approve the proposed Jewish caucus showed the following results: In favor – 16, Against – 17, Abstain – 16.

When he voted on this issue, DNC Member John Verdejo specifically requested that the Minutes include his statement that the Party must change the way we do our business.

Remarks were then made by Colette Alston, Pam McAfee, John Verdejo, and Dr. Wesley Boykin.

Zack Finley made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Connie Green-Johnson. This motion was approved by a vote of 32 – 2.

The State Chair adjourned the three-hour meeting at approximately 9:00PM.

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