

## RFCA General Membership Meeting

October 28, 2021

Minutes

(Zoom Meeting)

### **Introduction**

The October 28, 2021, General Membership Meeting was held via Zoom Call. Marcie Winitt, President, called the meeting to order at 7:43 PM. The minutes from the May 27, 2021, General Membership Meeting were approved.

**Feature Presentation** - Candidates Night Braddock District State Delegate Race  
Maureen Brody and Vivian Watts (Incumbent) – Jim Hickey, Moderator

### **Opening statements**

Del. Watts opened by saying she is going door to door in each precinct and finding that people are distressed not only by change, but by the tone and simplistic answers with no depth.

Candidate Brody opened by saying she is a life-long resident of Fairfax County and appreciated Del. Watts long record of service. She has volunteered on PTAs, and HOAs. She is concerned for those families living on the edge and how government programs have worked or not worked for those living at the lower level of the economy.

### **Q&A**

#### **1. COVID**

**Watts:** School children are now eligible for the vaccine; mask mandate will be dropped in schools, but we must be guided by the FDA and CDC. Also, masks may be dropped for family gatherings over the holidays if all participants have been vaccinated.

**Brody:** We should push schools to drop the mask mandate for teachers and students. Local schools know their district; power to make a change should be with the local school district, not Richmond. Like to go with science, get the education and health departments together. Don't go with mandates for masks or vaccines for the entire district.

#### **2. What will you do to fight Climate Change?**

**Brody:** Can't stop climate from changing. Can focus on how we respond to climate change. Review flood prone areas and flood insurance policies – move out of public policy. Stewardship of environment; clean burning of energy.

**Watts:** Human activity contributes to environment – floods, fire. Cut back on fossil fuels. Use of offshore wind turbines – green energy. Siemens manufactures the blades in Hampton Roads, providing employment. Virginia is one of the top five states in the country investing in solar.

3. Technology

**Watts:** Re: elections. How to ensure elections are secure and fair. When discrepancies occur, they are investigated. Poll officials are well trained, and machines are verified. All voters have a unique nine-digit number. Patron of bill that 1) allows voter to provide address rather than say it aloud, and 2) if name is substantially similar it is accepted (initials missing, misspelled name).

**Brody:** I don't have the same confidence. Brody mentioned incidents of which she was aware; 1) during early voting a husband was given the wrong precinct ballot because the name wasn't verified. When the error was discovered, he was told the ballots had been cast and couldn't vote again. Other problems found included, 2) election officer was not matching names, 3) the DMV check box was not being verified at the election office, and 4) student ID, some voted in Ohio and VA.

4. Registrar change - Absentee ballot w/o the last four digits of the SSN.

**Brody:** Yes. The decision was arbitrary made by the Registrar.

**Watts:** Being investigated as a legal issue.

5. Transportation – traffic noise all the time.

**Watts:** There has been 30 years of inaction. Politicians have cut taxes and don't invest in the future. Economic development created a need for more roads. Last year the gas tax was increased and finally getting funding. Braddock Road project needs refinement and regional funding.

**Brody:** Better to focus on mass transit, VRE. Rethink lanes, truck lanes. Masks.

6. COVID and Vaccines

**Brody:** Local school board may approve mandate. Opposed to mandate on vaccines; don't understand the genetic make up of the vaccine; also, those who have had COVID have a natural immunity. Masks don't do anything.

**Watts:** We're 1 ½ yrs. into this. We'll be dealing with it for a long time. Not to do anything is not good. There are test cases by number of people who have had the vaccine.

7. What can be done in mental health?

**Brody:** Last 20 years we have been plowing money to expand state hospitals and it hasn't worked. Need to privatize. Encourage youth in schools.

**Watts:** NOVA has a substantial number and private sector may contribute. Such services do not exist in the rest of the state. School systems should have a mental health professional on staff.

8. Abortion – VA v. TX

**Watts:** allows for medical opinion of woman and family. 29% at 16 weeks; 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester, only two on record in VA. Leaves broader choice for medical decision to the individual.

**Brody:** Human right; no reason to murder a child in the womb. Private sector to help with adopting a mother and help with the child. Adoption as public policy.

9. Family First

**Brody:** Allow household control over income, child's education, health care, and passing on wealth. Stop the nanny state and micromanaging families and decision making.

**Watts:** Expanded Medicaid, increase minimum wage, open housing, believe in public schools.

### **Closing Statements**

#### Del. Watts

**VRE** – funding package; CRX has given up track so there is no need to negotiate with the RR.

**Mental Health** – Medicaid now covers Mental Health.

**Nursing Homes** – Virginia needs to develop staffing standards for its nursing homes.

**Public Schools** – Provide robust course offerings, retain teachers, and provide teachers with the resources to teach children to learn.

Candidate Brody – my biggest difference with Vivian is that I do not think the public sector can deal as well as they think they can.

**Green New Deal** – More of a boondoggle for R&D, for others. don't think it will be profitable. Turbines break down. Don't have a way to dispose of solar panels.

**Last Thought** - I want to involve all people. Government should not be only for the poor and marginalized.

### **Business Meeting:**

**Budget:** Kristoffer explained that the association had higher expenses last year due to the outsourcing of *The Farmer* since Key School was not in session due to COVID.

However, since many of the association's activities were cancelled (BBQ, refreshments for General Membership Meetings, Fall Festival, Taste of Ravensworth, etc.) it ended up \$737 in the black. The Balance in the checking account is approximately \$12K and \$50,200 in the savings account. When questioned as to why there was so much in savings, a past president mentioned that it is in reserve should the association be sued. He said the board voted down the option of purchasing a liability policy for \$3K per year several years ago. An attorney had told him that \$50K probably would not be enough if sued. Kristoffer said he would do additional research re a liability policy. Motion to approve budget was made, first and seconded, and passed by the General Membership in attendance.

### **Announcements**

**Holiday Lights Judging Contest:** The contest will be a virtual event as last year. Voting will take place from December 11 – December 18, 2021.

**Voting:** Jim Hickey advised that Early Voting is open until Saturday at the Government Center and Satellite offices from 9 AM – 5 PM. Last year 81% of Ravensworth Farm residents voted!

**Membership/Directory:** Steve Beste advised that there will be a stand at the school on election day for purchase of the directory or to pick up a directory if you are pre-paid. Currently the PayPal option on the web site is unavailable.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.