

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS – Reorganizational Meeting

Saturday, February 10th, 2024 @ 12:00 pm

Urbana Free Library

Lewis Auditorium

210 W Green St, Urbana

Present: Peaugh, Stohr, Locke, Straub, Taylor, Lokshin, Thorsland, Stephanie, Rodriguez
Late: Cowart, Carter, Rogers, Vanichtheeranont, Greer

1. **Call to Order:** 12:00 pm

2. **Approval of the Agenda–**

- a. Moved by Stohr, second by Rodriguez, unanimous approval.

3. **Public Participation (2 minute time limit) –**

None

4. **Announcements/Communications–**

- a. Taylor– communication and punctuality are important, vote your conscience but I don't want to be surprised. Everyone's viewpoint is important, but if the caucus chair doesn't know what it is it's hard to consider all viewpoints.
- b. Fortado- Not running for chair, and if she was everyone would already know, because that's how you run for a position.

5. **Nominations/Selection of Chair -**

- a. Locke nominates Carter
- b. Rogers nominates Rodriguez
 - i. Both accept
 - 1. Carter– Goal is transparency and communication. Have not felt like I was part of the team or conversations that have been had. Hoping to bridge gaps. Service of the community for many years.
 - 2. Rodriguez- Blissfully unaware of process tensions. Having two voices talking about chair is a sign of strength for our caucus. We have a vision and want to move forward. Has chair experience as Labor Committee and Citizen Police Subcommittee. Served on a wide range of committees.
- c. Discussion-
 - i. Stohr- Reviewing County Board Responsibilities– emails and telephone calls requiring a response are sent daily. Dr. Stohr is very concerned that

the nominees are able and willing to be available for that duty. Former chair Patterson explained that there's no predicting when these communications will need a response.

- ii. Rogers– Is not aware of the tension.
- iii. Locke asked the question of how the nominees would encourage communication between board members and departments.
- iv. Rodriguez suggested using caucus time with officials inviting county-wides to speak on votes and using communications time to speak about constituents' issues.
- v. Carter – doesn't want to feel rushed through caucus. Feels that employees and county-wide electeds feel tension when they speak with our caucus. Offers to facilitate mediation.
- vi. Thorsland– Asked about the importance of attendance and timeliness at the caucus. Asks for commitment to caucus.
- vii. Carter– Often brings her son because she's a single parent. Is closing her braiding school March 22 so that she can be more available.
- viii. Rodriguez– Will be available and thinks she has a good record.
- ix. Stohr– Sometimes feels like he finds things out in the media instead of before– which leads to feeling blindsided by constituents. It would be very helpful if board all got heads-up about media contacts.
- x. Former Chair Patterson hasn't heard from the N-G since Deb Prussy retired. In his experience, the things we hear about in the news without notice are things involving dept. Heads.
- xi. Locke- Respects both nominees and either would be a strong leader. She is supporting Samantha because she is a vice chair already and because she sought out a conversation to discuss the needs of the caucus.
- xii. Thorsland– Respects both for stepping up and wishing both good luck in the next 9 months.
- xiii. Peugh– Will be supporting Carter.
- xiv. Carter won the election for chair.

6. Other Business

- a. Nomination of Vice Chair-
 - i. Thorsland nominated Rodriguez- she declined
 - ii. Stohr nominated himself.
 - iii. Carter nominated Locke– Locke accepted. Committed to communication and attending meetings.
 - iv. Stohr withdrew his self-nomination
 - v. Lokshin spoke in Locke's favor.
 - vi. Fortado would have supported Rodriguez's favor, but will now support Locke.
 - vii. Locke was voted vice chair unanimously.

viii. Thorsland asked for a unanimous vote for the chosen slate. A roll call vote was taken. Unanimous selection of Carter & Locke.

7. Next Caucus Meeting: TBD

8. Adjournment: 12:42 pm