

Minutes
Carlisle Democratic Town Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 21, 2022, 7:00 PM via Zoom

Attendance: Sonia Chang-Diaz, Maureen Cosgrove-Deery, Kenneth Deitch, Dave Erickson, Sam Hyun, Robert Kearney, Nancy Kronenberg, Rebecca Morris, Francis Tacardon, Bob Wallhagen, Bev Young, Launa Zimmaro

1. Sania Chang-Diaz

Sonia Chang-Diaz is running for governor because every day it is getting harder and harder for people to live in the State. Childcare costs are going up and the consequences of climate change are barreling towards us. The fire she brings comes from her past; she has moved between 2 different worlds. She grew up in a mostly wealthy, mostly white suburb. Sonia's father came to the US with \$50 in his pocket and made it to space, he became Massachusetts' first astronaut. Her mother was a social worker who helped the disadvantaged; she taught Sonia about the opportunities available to us. Sonia has worked as a schoolteacher in one of the poorest communities in Massachusetts, Lynn, and she saw how the poor communities were neglected. On Beacon Hill she has gone from high powered board rooms in the morning to developments at night. She has seen too many people in government who are more concerned about holding onto their power than in doing something with that power. Sonia wants to change that and her fight for justice reform shows that. She has seen change happen and she knows that we can provide debt free education from childhood to adulthood and can close the wealth gap. We just need to stand together and we must elect a governor who does not just say the right words but can show that she will take action even if it is not politically prudent. We are not limited by natural resources but by opposition from Finance and Technology groups. She knows the urgency of the moment but most of all she would like our questions.

Ken Deitch asked what she taught and studied. Sonia taught 8th grade social studies, she said it's an exciting age because they are having their first forays into critical thinking.

Launa Zimmaro said Sonia had said she would pass a Green New Deal to solve the climate crises, what do you mean by solve? Sonia said we may never get the earth back to the state it was in 100 years ago so we must gird ourselves for climate change and resiliency planning is part of that. We must use every tool at our disposal and we need to avert the worst of global warming and climate change. We need to grab the enormous economic benefits of making the transition to clean energy; we must meet our electric needs with 100% green energy by 2030, massively grow solar, offshore wind, geothermal, and electrify public transit. Launa responded that the massive challenge is that we have to do everything at same time at triple speed, if you were to pick 2 major areas what would the most important one be? Sonia replied that if we just choose one, we will fail, we must address multiple areas at once. The single largest sector is transportation so we have to go hard and fast, we must also get up to speed on the building sector. There is a real difference between her plan and others. In the transportation sector we must electrify mass transit as well as individual vehicles; we need to get more people out of individual vehicles and convert to a regional rail system.

Rebecca Morris said everyone on this call has been working on various types of change and many have worked hard and failed to get specific legislation passed. What reason do we have to think you are different? It seems like we are moving too slowly, why are you different? Sonia no candidate or elected official can say they will do it single handed. in the State Senate for the past 13 years, she has repeatedly pushed against the establishment. She spent a 5-year battle to overhaul K-12 education, working with urban and suburban parents to get a bill passed and \$1.2 billion in new funding which is now changing lives of poorer kids, Springfield has \$2000 more per pupil. She also went against the police lobby to get a criminal justice reform bill passed. She knows the barriers standing in the way and for the most part it is not Trumpism but ourselves. She has a good record of building coalitions to tackle difficult problems.

Kearney asked Sonia if she sees nuclear fusion as a significant part of the solution. Sonia is familiar with nuclear fusion and is certainly open to it but there are tons of unresolved questions so she would not rely on it but she would be open to other nuclear as well, we must keep developing, there is going to be a healthy competition.

Launa says there is promising technology on the horizon but the IPCC pointed out that we should deploy what we can already have. We have the technology that we could have deployed 20-30 years ago and we need to make maximum use of that while we continue to research new options.

Sam Hyun at this point said that Sonia has another appointment. Nancy thanked Sonia for coming and also for spending 1/2 hour on the phone before the meeting.

2. Minutes for 3/17/2022 were approved.
3. Treasurer's report: current balance \$1141.45 with no income and no expenses.
4. Meeting adjourned in order to open an executive session.