**Albany Democratic Club General Meeting**

Albany Library

February  20, 2020

7 p.m.

President Bryan Marten started the meeting shortly after 7 pm.

* **Amy Neil** and **Pam Tellew** from **Together We Will - Albany/Berkeley** spoke on their groups efforts and ways attendees could get involved in efforts to unseat republicans
* **Bryan** led the group in a brief discussion about how club members could get involved with TWW
* Discussion around **Measure B** and the desirability of a regressive tax. **Preston Jordan** outlined previous action taken by him personally to advocate for more progressive taxation.
	+ Suggested that the club encourage November 2020 School Board Candidates to endorse more progressive taxation
	+ Suggested that the club take up issue in the form of a more concrete written statement that can be endorsed
	+ Suggested that the club undertake an education campaign to inform Albany residents about regressive versus progressive taxation
	+ Suggested that we take this issue up at our march meeting in order to discuss in a more concrete manner.
	+ **Club Voted (8 for/0 against/2 abstaining) to send a representative to communicate on their behalf that “The club asks the School Board to work towards a more progressive tax structure starting now”**
* **Preston Jordan** advocated for the club to take up a more active model allowing members to advocate for policy areas the club should focus on each year, modeled after what the League of Women Voters does. Club discussed how best to implement this and **Preston** volunteered to set up a google form to submit policy ideas for discussion at our next meeting.
* **Brian Beall** discussed the possibility of a club yard sale in order to raise funds. Club is seeking donated items for sale and ideas for further fundraising.
* Members gave updates on city council and appointed committees
	+ **Mayor Pilch:**
		- Townhome project approved at Kains and Portland
		- Presentation heard about East Bay community Bank
		- Re-wrote sign ordinance to remove free-speech violating aspects. Now only limits square footage.
		- City will now publish data on city staff diversity on website at urging of Social and Economic Justice Committee
		- City accepting applications for the new **Financial Advisory Committee.** Will meet quarterly and review financial conditions in the city.
	+ **Bryan Marten-Parks and Rec:** discussion of the opening of a pickleball court brought community, expect further discussions at Committee and City Council
	+ **Aaron Tiedemann-Economic Development:** gave update on the stroll and reorganizing of the committee subcommittees
	+ **Preston Jordan-Transportation:** City will begin a study of city lighting. City was also sued on sidewalk conditions a year ago, which has been settled, but it mandates the city do various repairs.
	+ **Ge’nell:** gave further detail on the effort to publish diversity data

Meeting Adjourned at 9pm