



25Jan20

NCBEMO BOARD MEETING

1502 Barber Park Dr.

Greensboro, NC

Attendees:

Valerie Jones

Brittney Hunter

Sharon Hightower

Carle Ferebee

Howard Morgan

Mary Evans

DeDreana Freeman(phone)

Derreck Creech

Antonio Blue

Ophelia Jones

Quentin Jackson

DeDe Adams

Weyling White(phone)

Guest:

Demetrius Deloach

Call to Order at 9:20am

Opening Prayer by Derreck Creech

Roll Call by everyone present introducing themselves.

Motion to approve Agenda as written by S. Hightower and seconded by D. Creech. Approved unanimously.

In light of there being no minutes from the last board meeting of the year held in Elizabeth City NC and hosted by Q. Jackson. President Jones discussed some of the things discussed during that meeting.

- A. It was voted upon that NCBEMO sponsor a table at the 60th Civil Rights Gala to be held 01Feb20 in Greensboro. NCBEMO would pay for half at \$750 and ten members would pay \$75 each for a seat at the table.
- B. It was voted upon for NCBEMO to move their back account to CIVIC Federal Credit Union at the urging of LGFCU. It was not really a choice but by moving now we got an incentive on the interest rate.

Since there were no official minutes motion was made by S. Hightower to waive the minutes and seconded by D. Creech. Unanimously approved.

Acknowledgement of Guest: Mr. Demetrius Deloach Lobbyist from the NCLM introduced himself. Since meeting Mr. Deloach in December Demetrius has gotten 5 new members to BEMO. All four of the new City of High Point municipal officials have joined and one other. He has been with the league for a little over a year. He is learning all he can about NCBEMO and actively recruiting members. His boss is not happy with this and it is obvious that the powers that be at the League do not respect or acknowledge NCBEMO. As the newest member of the lobbying Team, Demetrius helps facilitate classes that the League sponsors.



President's Remarks:

Happy that we are embracing Technology with 2 people participating via phone. As the year progressing I hope that we get more participation this way. As a Board member for the Black Alliance it is amazing how far past NCBEMO they have gone in regards to participation and finances. Age is not the issues because the participants with the Black Alliance are all well over 50. It would appear that the Association of Black School Board members, Black County Commissioners, Black Mayors and North Carolina Black Caucus are more active than the North Carolina Black Municipal Officials. BEMO needs to start using the staff at the Black Alliance to help with emails and paperwork.

Question was asked how many Black Elected Municipal Officials are there in North Carolina. Back when May Blue was President of BEMO there were about 500 plus but he believes that there are less than 300 now. Q. Jackson thought there were over 900 based on information he received from NBCLEO. Brittney is still trying to get that data from the League. For some reason the League doesn't have the most current data for Black Elected Officials. Getting a List of Mayors is easy. The main issue with BEMO seems to be the name BLACK. A lot of African Americans don't want to be associated with the word BLACK. As a group we are going to have to find the Black Elected Municipal Officials on our own. Grass Roots work call each municipality and get the information ourselves. A HUGE point was made that we cannot get new members when all the current and old members do is bicker and disagree at meetings. A motion was made by D. Creech to suspend parliamentary procedures for open discussion on how to get members engaged. Seconded by Carl and Quentin and Approved by all.

NCBEMO has to rebrand itself. The organization has to provide something that people want to join. We need to start outreach activities to get people re-engaged. Annual conference is a good place to start with speakers and sponsorships. Need the whole body to participate to get Sponsors. Sponsorship packets are on the website, but need to get it out to all members to start getting sponsors now. Reach out to the people that you do business with every day like Mayor Morgan did with Republic. Plan activities for Black History Month like each District set a certain Sunday and all Black Elected Officials go to church together and out to each together.

After all the open discussion same ones moved and seconded to go back into parliamentary procedure.

Invite CIVIC to our conference as a speaker/Sponsor. Raise conference registration fees to \$250 per person to ensure we don't go in the hole. Work with the State to find our Articles of Incorporation. Willing to pay the fee to do so. Voted upon and approved. Mayor Blue will reach out to Robert Wilson former Secretary of State to get help with this.



Treasurers Report:

All NCBEMO accounts were moved to CIVIC 26 November 19.

SUMMARY 11/26/19 / 12/31/19			
	DEBITS	CREDITS	ENDING BALANCE
CHECKING	\$3,062.29	\$17,085.30	\$14,023.01
SAVING		\$1,485.52	\$1,482.52
MONEY MARKET		\$3,004.43	\$3,004.03
TOTAL	\$3,062.29	\$21,572.25	\$18,509.56

Because we moved accounts when we did we are earning more interest on our money. Carl moved to move 10K to money market account and Sharon seconded it. Unanimously approved.

Membership:

Dues are \$65 per person with affiliate membership available at \$50 per person. We have six new members since last meeting. Sharon and DeDe will get together list so everyone can call new members and invite them to join. BEMO has 130 paid members currently.

Bylaws:

Listed on website already. Work on changing Quorum because district reps are never present. Will wait until Sharon and DeDe have had a chance to reach out to more people.

New Business:

Annual Summer Conference will be Sunday August 2 – Tuesday August 4 ending at lunch time. Conference will be in Beaufort at the Beaufort Hotel.

Summer Conference 2021 will be in Rocky Mount and the 2022 Summer Conference will be in Durham.

2020 NCBEMO Board Meeting Dates: Greensboro 25 Jan 20, Wilmington 05 May 20, Beaufort 02 Aug 20 and Elizabeth City October 2020.

City Vision 202- NCBEMO will be having a Board meeting at Elijah's from 1-3 on Tuesday May 5th. We will also strive for some type of reception as well. This one event could serve as both will everyone providing for their own meals and alcohol.

Respectively Submitted,

Valerie Jones
President