

Friday, June 27, 1969

Minutes: Black Convention Committee

Pre-meeting on structure:

A pre-meeting meeting was held by members of the committee and the following structural design was recommended later to the general body:

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Officers

Committees

Chairman  
Deputy Chairman/Vice-chairman  
Secretary  
Assistant Secretary  
Treasurer  
Assistant Treasurer

Fund raising  
Program  
Distribution  
Platform  
Publicity and Organization

A motion was presented to this group which stated that the executive committee shall consist of all officers, committee chairmen and three (3) delegates at large. There was consensus approval of the motion.

It was also decided that there would be a job definition and description of all offices and committees.

Meeting:

The meeting was officially opened at 7:50 p.m. Temporary chairman, Robert Curvin gave a historical review of the involvements, intentions and origins of the Black Convention Planning Committee. He made mention of the original ideas of the ad hoc group creating the convention which revolved around a means of narrowing the field in the 1970 mayoral campaign. The alternatives to the convention, he said, were a Black primary and a poll. The idea of the convention was considered best by the members of that committee.

Mr. Curvin informed the group that it had been decided that a Convention Committee would run the Black Convention and that it was to be made up of a cross-section of organizations. The central focus of attention among this cross-section was the thrust of a Black mayoral candidate. He also mentioned that although a great deal of effort had been exerted by the Committee for a Unified Newark, it was apart from the Committee for a Unified Newark and was not representative of any one point of view.

Mr. Curvin then presented to the group the agenda for the meeting. The agenda was organizational structure and program. He then recommended that the election of permanent officers be postponed. After lengthy discussion, a motion for postponement was entertained with an approval vote. The election date was set for July 11, 1969.

It was decided that a election procedures would be handled by a special election committee. This committee would also be responsible for election procedures and rules to limit any "stacking of the deck". Mr. Curvin then appointed an election committee to be chaired by Mr. James Palley. Other committeemen were Joe Scrimmager, William Paine, David Barrett and Mrs. Louise Epperson.



(2)

A motion concerning the proposed structure of the convention was entertained with an approval vote. Discussion followed which centered around the need to provide a job definition and description for each officer. The general body was then split into two groups to deal with this description and definition.

The recommendations of Group B were as follows:

Secretary: (a) is keeper of records for the organization  
(b) is the contact agent for the organization (incoming and outgoing)  
(c) serves as official reference for the organization

Assistant Secretary:

(a) assists secretary  
(b) serves as replacement for secretary in the absence of same  
(c) assumes duties of correspondence and recording

Treasurer:

(a) is keeper of all financial records  
(b) is responsible for all monies  
(c) is responsible for all financial transactions  
(d) is responsible for all checks  
(1) Treasurer will be bonded  
(2) Checks must have the signatures of chairman, secretary and treasurer (treasurer and either secretary or chairman)

Assistant Treasurer:

(a) is responsible for deliverance of all financial reports (at discretion of the treasurer)  
(1) assistant treasurer must also be bonded

Delegates-at-large:

(a) serves as members of the executive board  
(1) will have voting status

Several suggestions for ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the number ~~XXX~~ of people participating in the Convention Committee. One suggestion was an improvement or broadening of the mailing list. It was mentioned that a BICC list had been used. Joe Scrimmager mentioned that some effort should be made to contact barbers and beauticians, as well as ministers, should be made. Dave Barret, responding, mentioned that ministers had been a part of committee since its inception.

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, suggested the exploration of different strategies to attract people. He suggested emphasis on organizational strength as opposed to individual strength. He also suggested that if mailing lists were to be used continually, the a follow-up by means of phone chain, might also be used. He also suggested the delegation of individual responsibility for contacts.