

Date: 21/03/23

Time: 8:30 am

Location: Liberal Party Meeting Room, Parliament House.

Attendees:

Ryan Smith

Sam Groth

Bridget Vallence

Roma Britnell

Bev McArthur

Cindy McLeish

Trung Luu

Matt Bach

Georgie Crozier

Wayne Farnham

Evan Mulholland

Jess Wilson

Joe McCracken

Moir Deeming

Chris Crewther

Bill Tilley

Matt Guy

James Newbury

Michael O'Brien

Kim Wells

Nick McGowan

Wendy Lovell

Anne-Maree Hermans

David Hodgett

David Southwick

Renee Heath

Brad Battin

Richard Riordan

John Pesutto

Late: Brad Rowswell

David Davis

Agenda:

- Leader's Report
- Election of Liberal representative to VicHealth Board
- Election of Liberal representative to Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation Board

Minutes:

John Pesutto MP:

Called for focus on the Robert Redlich matter. Acknowledged the work done by Michael and Georgie.

Acknowledged the Admin Committee's selection Stuart Smith to be the next State Direction. Noted he will be under a lot of pressure because he has come from outside Victoria and called for him to be supported.

Noted Rod's start as Chief of Staff and Nick Johnston's start of employment.

General Business:

Richard Riordan MP:

Moved motion for the delay of the motion to expel Moira Deeming.

Motion: I move that the motion put forward by the Leadership be put in abeyance and replaced with a motion that at our next Party Room conference these important social issues raised over the weekend be considered so that we all may move forward cohesively and direct our attention to our real opponents, including Daniel Andrews.

Ryan Smith: Seconded

In favour: 11

Against: 18

Abstain: 1

David Southwick MP:

Argued that it isn't about social issues but about Nazis.

Ryan Smith MP:

The person who we are trying to expel does not have association with nazis.

John Pesutto MP:

This is not about me trying to shut down free speech. This is only about the impact on our brand. Posie Parker is now linked to us – now that's not my doing.

Kim Wells MP:

Spoke in support of Richard Riordan.

I am still confused about what the hanging offence is. When we expelled Bernie, I said if we keep dropping the threshold lower and lower, then we will continue to lower it. Any one of us could be tripped up by association.

Georgie Crozier MP:

Dan Andrews has just done a press conference saying liberals are full on hate. We are tarnished with that. We need to be working as a team. The people Moira has associated with – there is a long rap sheet.

Matthew Bach MP:

I was troubled when Moira said, "they have done nothing wrong". I wanted to find a mediated way forward.

Moira Deeming MP:

I said from the beginning that I denounce Nazism. I denounced them twice on the day and I offered to do it again for the leadership, but they said I couldn't be rehabilitated because I pushed back from distancing myself from the three woman and denouncing them as Nazi's because that would denouncing Jacinta Price, Claire Chandler, Catherine Deves, Angela Jones who is a Jewish woman and Kelly J Kean as Nazi's. I would never do that unless I was convinced that they were. I asked to see the leaderships evidence, but they would not show me - they told me I should have known. "Let woman speak" is a mainstream organisation. Us women were afraid of the Nazi's – who at the time we thought were part of the counter protest. I was assaulted that day and I told the leadership and they all stayed completely silent and didn't show any care for me at all. I feel that no one seems to care about that.

I cannot be responsible for what other people have said. The first time I saw the dossier was when everyone else in this room received it.

The leadership told me that they would move a motion to expel me or I could make it easier for everyone and quit. The leadership weren't interested in hearing my side of the story.

Moira then went through article by article on the dossier and spoke about how each wasn't true

Elections:

VicHealth: Bridgett Valence

Gambling Foundation Board: Michael O'Brien

Meeting close: 10:15am