

46th District Democrats
Minutes of the January 19, 2006 General Meeting
Olympic View School, Seattle WA

Meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM

Gail Chiarello led the Pledge of Allegiance. Scott White acknowledged Gail for being a semi-finalist in filling the City Council vacancy. Javier Valdez is also a semi-finalist, and was expected to arrive at the meeting, later.

Scott announced an agenda including three resolutions and break-outs to work on the platform. The agenda was accepted by voice vote.

Chair's report: Scott looked forward to a successful 2006. He announced he and his wife are expecting a child, which reminds everyone of the importance of schools and education. Elections in the fall will be exciting. The holiday party was well-attended, and the auction raised money for the District. Scott would like to see PCOs in all the precincts to help with November elections.

Scott welcomed David Della, Larry Phillips, Larry Kenney to the meeting.

State Party Report: Janet Miller reported on the election to replace Paul Berendt. Janet and John Webber are looking for guidance from District members. John has received several messages, already. State Committee representatives vote in this election, representing our collective views. The Republicans will also be electing a new State Party Chair.

Motion by Gerry Pollet and seconded: to write a letter to Paul Berendt on behalf of the 46th District Democrats thanking him for his work over the years. **Motion passed** by acclamation.

PCO election: Justin Simmons petitioned to be PCO in his precinct. **Motion** to confirm Justin was made and seconded. **Motion passed** by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Gail said 2005 included many activities, and good revenues, with a carry-forward of several thousand dollars. Gail reported on November and December balances.

Membership Committee Report: Betty Means said we are starting a new year, and we had 220 dues-paying members coming into tonight, with 24 more paying their dues tonight. The newsletter goes out electronically to 361 people.

Issues Summit: Gerry explained how the issues breakout groups are organized. Platforms start out at the Legislative Districts, with this issues forum, our platform committee, and the March 4th precinct caucuses, and through the system to the

state and national platforms. Tonight, we are looking for one or two top legislative action priorities from each of eight breakout groups:

Group - Facilitator(s)

Human Services - Sarajane Siegfriedt

Election reform - Bev Marcus, Jan Ames

Civil and Human rights, Law and

Justice - Dana O'Day-Senior and Dean Fournier

Education - Janet Miller and Pat Emerson

Foreign Policy - Gail and Justin

Labor and economic Justice - Stan Sorscher and John Webber

Environment, Energy and Transportation - Chad Lupkes

Health - Sylvia Haven

Jim McIntire stopped by to observe the different groups. He said HB 2661 will come to a vote tomorrow - basic civil rights for gays and lesbians. A similar bill has been blocked for 30 years, but it may pass in this session. Other exciting bills are going through the legislature, too.

Report-outs of top items:

Human Services:

1. Fund transitional services for foster children 18-25

Three-way tie for second:

2. Fully fund and implement foster care reforms required under the court settlement (Braam case)
2. Decriminalize mental illness and fully fund mental health treatment (including 2006 \$7M cuts to King County's MH budget)
2. Help end homelessness by funding State Housing Trust Funds an additional \$100M to cut the backlog

Energy environment and transportation: Support an initiative to force utilities to use renewable energy... continue ANWR protections, and oppose offshore drilling.

Education: A committee will work their issues offline. One priority is to invite officials - encourage early learning, cooperate with other education-interest groups.

Civil and human rights: 1) Demand an end to warrantless eavesdropping and prosecution for those who order such activity, up to and including impeachment. 2) Support HB 2261 in the current session.

Foreign policy:

- 1) Work with Church Council of Greater Seattle on City Council resolution rejecting the concept of a war on terror, and withdraw troops from Iraq.

- 2) Encourage elected officials to reject John Bolton's nomination when he comes up for confirmation.
- 3) Oppose secret detention, torture, rendition, school for America's. etc.

Election reform:

- 1) Campaign finance reform and public financing of election campaigns - restore fairness doctrine.
- 2) Robust auditing of the process
- 3) "De-privatization" of elections.

Health:

- 1) Support fair-share Wal-Mart initiative
- 2) Senate bill 6469 - study statewide health care
- 3) Children with disabilities act,

Labor & economic justice:

- 1) Comprehensive Workers Bill of rights with many specific items
- 2) Overhaul of tax structure to be more progressive, along the lines of the Bill Gates Sr. commission, and cancel the tax cuts for the wealthy enacted by George W. Bush.

Gerry asked all the facilitators to send the results along to him and Stan Sorscher so the Platform committee can start working on them.

Resolution: City Council - code of ethics (full text at <http://www.46dems.com/demogram/demogram200601.pdf>) ending with:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 46th District Democrats urge the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission and Seattle City Council to reject the request from the Seattle Planning Commission to exempt Advisory Committees, with or without their own separate standards of ethical conduct, from the City's Code of Ethics (SMC 4.16).

Gail spoke in favor of the resolution, saying a single code of ethics is easier to understand and enforce. Frivolous complaints can be disposed of through the existing process.

Mike Lefton spoke against the resolution, saying it's too long and hard to understand. Mike is uncomfortable with a code of ethics he was forced to sign as a condition of employment. He would prefer just voting out officials who are not ethical.

Resolution passed by a show of hands.

Resolution: Opposition to confirmation of Samuel Alito, and favoring a filibuster as a means to that end.

Given the short timeline for this issue, the resolution was not published in the Demogram. **Motion** to suspend bylaws to consider this resolution. **Motion to suspend passed.**

Resolution passed unanimously by show of hands,

Resolution: Make the image of Martin Luther King Jr. the official image of King County. The King County Council is considering this, and timeliness prevented printing this in the Demogram. **Motion** to suspend bylaws. **Motion to suspend passed.**

Resolution passed by show of hands.

Marcia Bennison asked for support for the "gun show loophole" bill in Olympia in the next week. The web site washingtoneasefire.org has details about going to Olympia to lobby.

Scott asked Janet to email an action alert about the Alito and MLK resolutions, to follow up with their elected representatives.

Announcements:

Chad posted lobby days on the web site.

Jason Osgood introduced a group dealing with vote-by-mail and other election issues.

Scott reminded everyone of the KCDCC party Friday Feb 17th, and Democratic Party crab feed on Feb 20th, where Howard Dean will help with the training.

Dana announced equality-day on Monday Jan 23rd as one of the lobby days.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Submitted by Stan Sorscher