

46th District Democrats General Meeting minutes
Olympic View Church, Seattle WA
September 19, 2006

Scott White called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The proposed agenda:

Chair's report

Dues increase

Suzie Sheary will give a report for King County Democrats

Ballot measures

Campaign contributions

Other business and good of the order

Chairman's Report. Scott reminded everyone about the endorsements made in prior meetings and mentioned some of the election results as counted so far. The Cantwell-McGavick race will be a tough one. The 46th District had 141 PCO's on the primary ballot.

Scott talked about activities we anticipate for 2007 and the 2008 presidential election cycle.

Dean Fournier asked for volunteers for the Darcy Burner campaign, for doorbelling on Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM to build for "get out the vote" lists in November.

Credentials Report. Betty Means reported that 42 eligible voting members are present.

Dues Increase. Scott referred to the handout for the dues increase. He said no one on the Executive Board could remember the last dues increase. The proposal would bring us in line with dues structures used by other Districts in the area. We also added a new category - Benefactor - at the \$500 level. The proposed dues schedule would take effect in 2007.

Q: What will the increased dues be used for?

Scott: We project a 10-20% increase in income. We would like to do more outreach for the 2008 election cycle, so we need to carry forward some funds from 2007 into 2008 to prepare for that.

Q: Do the higher level contributions cover families?

Scott: yes.

Q: Will first time members see the old rate or the new rate, even if they join after the effective date?

A: The new rate starts October 1, 2006. If you join tonight, that dues payment applies only for the next two months.

Motion made and seconded to raise the dues according to the handout.

Motion to amend the motion to provide a split dues level - the old levels for first time members, and the higher one for old members.

For: The higher level might scare off new members.

Against: Jean Ferguson said she just joined and thought the dues were ridiculously low, and insisted on paying more. Two rate structures will be confusing and hard to track.

Against: Gail Chiarello said the accounting would be difficult.

Motion to amend failed by a show of hands.

Motion to increase the dues passed by a show of hands.

Treasurer's Report. Donna Boysen was introduced as Deputy Treasurer. Donna will help out when Gail is out of town. Donna said income was greater than expenses for the month. Gail reviewed projections for expenses for next four months. She anticipates a surplus of about \$1100 plus anticipated income. At previous contribution rates from dues and the holiday party, we would have about \$5300 at the end of 2006.

King County Report. Suzie Sheary was chair of the 11th District, and is now chair of the King County Democrats. Suzie thanked the 46th District, our elected officials, and Dean Fournier and Sarajane Siegfriedt. Democrats are leading in areas that elected Republicans in the past. A brunch event is planned on the "Dinner Train" in October.

Sarajane spoke about the platform process used in 2006, and the work Suzie has done to improve things for next time, so the process makes more sense and is easier to get through the state convention.

Q: Outreach for Asian voters?

Suzie: Suzie is going to a community event tomorrow. Velma Valario and Bob Hasegawa are working on Hispanic and Asian outreach programs.

Q: Suzie made nice "impeach" buttons. We need to get control of the House to initiate a bill of impeachment.

A: Jim McDermott will speak at the Labor Temple two weeks before the election. The subject will be "how things are going in Washington DC" and Jim will also speak about messaging.

Ballot items.

Tim Killian spoke about **Ballot Measure 1**. The City Council passed rules that would restrict strip clubs in a way that would largely eliminate the clubs from the city. Referendum 1 asks if voters want to endorse the Council's regulations. Voting no on Referendum 1 would force the issue back to the City with the message (presumably) that a more reasonable solution should be found.

Q: If Referendum 1 passes, what restrictions would still apply regarding touching

A: Other rules prohibit touching.

Q: Do strip clubs attract crime?

A: A recent study of Rick's in north Seattle found that a nearby hamburger stand gets twice as many police calls as Ricks.

Ron Johnson spoke about **Transit Now!** Ron is with the Transportation Choices Coalition. The November ballot has a 0.1% sales tax increase for extra bus routes and more buses on the busiest routes. Public-private partnership funding will be permitted. Access van service will be increased. In total, service would increase about 25%. Many other Districts have endorsed this measure.

Q: \$25 per household per year?

A: Paid through sales tax.

Q: Matching funds?

A: No.

Q: Evidence that more buses -> increase ridership?

A: After an Eyman initiative, cuts in service resulted in drops in ridership. Since then, buses increased and ridership did, too. Service has been shown to be more important than fares.

Q: 20% goes to Seattle, but 40% for the eastside, and 40% for other areas.

A: A policy decision was made by a County Council regional committee - 20% to Seattle, 80% elsewhere, to correct inequities in service at that time. Sarajane added that public-private partnerships would bring more service to Seattle.

Q: Public-private partnership?

A: Metro will set aside bus time. Areas can get additional service when public or private entities pay for 1/3 of the cost. Microsoft is expected to participate in the program.

Motion to support Bridging the Gap

Proposition 1. Bridging the Gap is a property tax, proposed by the mayor and City Council. It will fund road repair, fix trees, create sidewalks. This would help get about half the public-partnership funds for Seattle.

Q: How much do sidewalks cost?

A: About \$100,000 per block, although asphalt and pervious materials can reduce those costs.

Q: With higher property values, why can't city maintain streets already?

A: Tim Eyman initiatives reduced income and created a \$500 M backlog in repairs.

Q: Promise to pave sidewalks north of 85th St. If this passes, will that promise finally be kept?

A: Well, kinda.

For/against/no position = 38-10-3. That is "support" received 38/51=74%, so the 46th District **supports property tax levy for bridging the gap**

Seattle Initiative #91 Fair Value for Key Arena

Motion to endorse Initiative #91.

For: Gail said we looked at this last winter, and we favored this type of decision.

Against: Gerry Pollet said this initiative might block worthy projects.

For: David Garcia said sports teams take public money and don't help the community

Take No Position: Need more information.

First ballot:

Support= 26; reject = 8; no position = 17. With no choice receiving two thirds, we eliminate "reject" and vote again.

Q: This applies to for-profit sports team?

A: Right.

Q: What is an investment, exactly? Maintenance, new bonds, repairs?

A: Several details are not fully explained.

Second ballot:

Support/reject = 25-25 -> **take no position**

State Party Report. John Webber repeated the message about the platform and resolutions committee. They will meet at the end of September in Tacoma. The Young Democrats want reserved delegates at the convention. In the primary, more Democrats voted than Republicans. That may or may not be important. Call John if you feel strongly about this.

Referendum #1 - regulation of strip clubs

Motion to impose regulations on strip clubs

For: Wesley Irwin grew up in Lake City where Rick's and Déjà Vu have operated for years. The buildings are ugly, the activity is reprehensible, and bad for the neighborhood.

Against: Government should not regulate personal behaviors. Regulations should protect economic and civil rights, but should not put people out of jobs.

For: Janine knows some of the workers in these clubs. They tell her the clubs promote prostitution.

Against: Basil says that we have laws against prostitution and other misbehavior, which should be enforced. Otherwise, this sounds to him like the arguments against marijuana.

First ballot:

18-27-3 with 32 needed to gain "support." Eliminate "take no position" and revote with approve/reject.

Second ballot:

For 17 reject 29 -> **no position.**

Coordinated Campaign. Aiko Akers said the primary "get out the vote" went pretty well. We have 47 days to the general election. Aiko wants help for canvassing and phone banking. We have a lot of people to contact, and can always use more volunteers.

Transit Now! Measure

Motion to support Transit Now!

For: Sarajane lived in Chicago where bus headways were so frequent that no one kept bus schedules. We need to increase frequencies to encourage ridership.

For: Pat Emerson suggested that higher ridership might make it unnecessary to widen 520.

Motion to vote by acclamation - passed by show of cards.

Motion to support Transit Now! passed by show of cards.

Scott thanked Bob Ferguson for working on this issue in the County Council.

Donations to Candidates.

The Executive Board passed two conditions - a cap of \$2,300 overall and a schedule for the allocation of contributions. Since then, Gerry Alexander and Tom Chambers did well in their elections.

Motion to amend the allocation by shifting funds from Alexander and Chambers to Susan Owens.

Q: Why would we give money to candidates running unopposed?

A: Candidates can pass their money through to the state campaign fund, which can target the funds to swing districts where we have no voters. We cannot donate directly to certain races where we don't have voters.

Q: Why no contributions for Jim McDermott? If Ken Jacobsen, Jim McIntire and Phyllis Kenney can reallocate, why not Jim McDermott?

A: We did a fund-raiser for Jim, and Jim asked people to contribute to Darcy Burner.

Q: Did 46th endorse Darcy Burner?

A: No, and that's one reason the Executive Board didn't allocate money to her campaign.

Q: Would it look funny to contribute to campaigns that are already settled?

A: We would help retire debt.

Q: Initiatives?

A: The Board discussed initiatives, and chose to stick with elections.

Comment: Gail is opposed to spending \$2300, since future income is unpredictable. She recommended a cap of \$1500.

Q: Can we get legally pass money to Darcy Burner?

A: Gail and Gerry Pollet are uncertain and will check.

Comment: Dean says Ken, Jim and Phyllis have helped other races in the past.

Motion to reallocate passed by a show of hands (from Alexander and Chambers to Owens).

Motion to reallocate again, this time to donate \$300 to Owens, and \$200 to Darcy Burner, contingent on legal opinion that this is legal.

For: Darcy Burner's campaign is important.

Against: Susan Owens needs it more

Friendly amendment to give Susan Owens \$500, and give Phyllis and Jim \$300 each instead of \$400, then give \$200 to Darcy Burner.

Q: Don't our bylaws prevent contributions when we haven't endorsed?

A: Looking. Ummm. No.

Q: Why not contribute to the Congressional campaign?

A: Not accepted as a friendly amendment.

Motion to reallocate from Alexander and Chambers to Susan Owens and Darcy Burner contingent on legal opinion regarding regulations.

Motion to cease debate - passed

Motion to reallocate - passed

Motion to give \$300 to No on 933 campaign.

Against: Gail opposed this contribution, on the grounds the District is spending in anticipation of revenue it has not yet received.

For: If we have money, we should spend it.

Against: This allocation would be against money we have not received.

For: If we run out, we should raise more money for the District to cover any shortfall.

Motion to contribute \$300 to No on 933 - passed 18-12 by show of hands.

Public Health facilities. King County is closing public health clinics. A resolution is being prepared and we will have a chance to endorse that resolution.

Peter Goldmark deserves our support in Eastern Washington.

SR-520 is going through the comment period, ending October 2. We endorsed a position that should be sent to WSDOT. Scott has already sent our position to WSDOT.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher