

46th District Democrats General Meeting
Olympic View Elementary School
March 15, 2007

Jan Ames called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Jan said the agenda will be different, this month, moving some of the business items later in the meeting.

Chair's report. Jan welcomed PCOs, new members, and everyone here for their first time. She quoted from a David Broder column the idea that Americans are eager for "practical" leadership. The Executive Board held a planning session for the coming year. Jan reminded everyone of Bernadette Laqueur's challenge that we do everything we can to have successful election outcomes in 2008. Jan asked volunteers to consider helping with the 46th District Democrat's committees. As a start, we can build membership, find more PCOs, and register voters. Jan explained basic features of the 46th Democrats' web site, and asked for a round of applause for Chad Lupkes, who created many of the features on the site.

Program. Gerry Pollet introduced Doris Kent to speak about the Iraq war, and Patricia Boiko, who produced a short film on the Iraq war. This is the 4th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

Patricia's movie was set in a large meeting hall where thousands of pairs of boots were arranged on the floor, representing soldiers killed in Iraq. Other shoes represented Iraqi civilians. Doris Kent, from Bellingham, was featured in the film.

The film is very moving and powerful [in a way that cannot be captured in these minutes]. After the film, Doris told the story of her son, Jonathan, who decided to join the military, and went to Iraq. Doris is part of a military family. She and her family have served their country wherever they were assigned to go. Her children were born in military hospitals. Jonathan's first mission was Haiti, where his unit had humanitarian duties after a hurricane. Before going to Iraq, Jonathan was home for 11 days - time that Doris now appreciates very much.

In Iraq, Jonathan kept a journal, which was returned to Doris with his personal items. Patricia will use the journal as content for a movie she is making, now.

Doris became active in a group that asked the City of Bellingham to pass a resolution against the Iraq war, calling for our soldiers to come home. The "Cities for Progress" web site has examples of resolutions from other cities. So far, Bellingham and Olympia have passed resolutions against the war in Washington State.

Doris went to an exhibit called "Eyes Wide Open" where boots were displayed. She met Patricia Boiko at the exhibit, and agreed to help with the film project.

Doris read from Jonathan's last letter home.

Patricia Boiko talked a little about her experience and intentions in making the movie.

Doris answered questions.

What do Jonathan's two brothers think about the military?

Doris expects the Seattle Times to run an article including interviews with her sons. Their experience has been very intense and sobering, especially since the family is still a military family.

How can we reconcile the sacrifice of individuals with the larger question of the purpose of the war?

Doris says that, from the start, she had come to terms with the difference between individual soldiers and their families, on the one hand, and the policy makers and larger issues on the other hand. We can all focus our feelings on our sons and daughters who serve, and make sure we never again send our soldiers into

harm's way for an unjust war.

Some time ago, Doris read a story in her local paper that said only a small group of citizens opposed the war. When Doris and her friends brought their resolution to the city council, no one spoke against the resolution. Doris thinks people need to be more visible in expressing their feelings against the war.

Elected Officials

Phyllis Kenney spoke briefly. She will have a town hall meeting at Meadowbrook on March 17, and another in the east side of the District. Jim McIntire will host a town hall meeting of his own. The legislative session just passed the cutoff date. One bill near the top of Phyllis' list deals with making sure medical facilities are available for soldiers with brain trauma. A bill providing health care for children passed the House. Simple majority for school levies passed the House, although it may have problems in the State Senate. The capital and operating budgets come out next week.

Lisa Stuebing is running for School Board Position #2. Lisa would focus on Board basics. She measures progress by graduation rates. Good teachers are necessary to get high graduation rates. We need parents and communities to be involved in school activities and be present in the schools.

David Della gave an update on City issues. He had visited a few months ago during our Issues Summit, where he sat in on several discussions.

The Viaduct proposals both failed in the election this week. David interprets the votes to mean that citizens want political leaders to make tough decisions and work together. The State will go forward immediately with safety projects that cost \$900 million. For the next year, a study will look at surface options. David's priorities are safety, mobility, and fiscal responsibility.

David is very aware of pedestrian safety. One of his staff members was killed in a traffic accident.

Sitting on the Parks committee, David will be looking at changes for the Seattle Center.

What about dedicated bus lanes on 1st and 3rd Ave downtown?

David will wait to see what the study says and what proposals come out in the next year.

SR 520?

David says the baseline option is 6-lanes with mitigation for noise and environmental impact in the Arboretum. David favors the plan to bring in a facilitator.

More police?

Seattle Police staffing is at a low measured back to the 1970's. We've added 49, and the mayor asked for many more.

Is rebuilding the viaduct a dead duck?

Let's see what the study says. Emotions make it harder to get to a decision.

What about a city resolution to bring the troops home?

This has come before the Council, already. Five members must agree to get it on the Council agenda. David is open to the idea.

Why not do the south part of the viaduct, and get freight from the Port to the freeway since everyone agrees on that part?

David will work with everyone else to find a solution.

Peter Maier is running for School Board Position #1. Peter lives in the 36th District, where he is a Democratic Party PCO. Peter believes the main issue is leadership. Set priorities and stick to them. Peter was part of "Schools First" Coalition in 2004 and the 2006 levy vote.

Resolution.

As printed in the Demogram:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 46th District Democrats oppose SB6003 / HB1983, and we request that our State Legislators oppose these bills which give away our existing rights under current law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 46th District Democrats urge all Democratic Party organizations in WA State to oppose SB6003/HB1983 & request their legislators to oppose them;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 46th District Democrats urge our members to tell friends and neighbors about this threat to our communications rights, and urge them to call or write their legislators and friends in opposition to SB 6003 / HB1983.

Sylvia Haven spoke for the resolution. The bill would have the whole state negotiate terms with cable companies. Sylvia wants local areas to retain the ability to set their own deals with the cable companies.

Resolution passed unanimously, by a show of hands.

State Party Report. Janet Miller and John Webber passed, saying not much has happened since the last report.

King County Report. Chad Lupkes reported that we are paying plenty for sports venues, and Larry Phillips is not interested in spending public money for another facility in Renton. Alec Fisker is running for Port Commissioner. Jack Block is also running. Sarajane and Chad talked about the endorsement processes used by the King County Democrats and the 46th District Democrats.

Treasurer's Report. Donna Boysen gave a brief report, which showed the District accounts are in good shape.

Membership. Betty Means compared membership this year to the corresponding year in the 2000-04 cycle. We have a 170% increase in membership, more or less, and we are ahead in the number of members paying above the basic dues level. Members whose dues are paid will be eligible to vote in the June endorsement meeting (except PCOs, whose dues are waived).

Good of the Order. Details on the web site: Jim McDermott will host a potato fest March 18. Another meeting will look at the search for a new Superintendent of Seattle Public Schools. John Webber will take the 46th Democrats banner to the peace rally this Sunday at noon. Sylvia will also take the banner to a march on March 19. An interfaith vigil for peace will be held later on Sunday. Sarajane says all the "Clean Elections" bills died in this legislative session. A small study will be funded to look at clean elections options. School Board Member Sally Soriano arrived late, but is available to answer questions.

Ken Jacobsen voted against the simple majority bill for school levies. He explains his position as being connected to another education bill, which was near and dear to his heart.

David Garcia warned that we can't forget our veterans. We should recognize the sacrifice of all of those who served.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM
Minutes by Stan Sorscher