

46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats General Meeting minutes  
Olympic View School, Seattle WA  
April 19, 2007

Scott White called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Scott asked for a moment of silence in memory of the tragedy at Virginia Tech.

Scott welcomed PCO's and new members. The Demogram includes a member survey to get feedback about the meetings. Scott expects the Demogram to be printed by a union shop starting next month.

Scott reviewed the agenda, which appeared in the Demogram.

**Motion** by John Webber, seconded, to accept the agenda. **Motion passed** by voice vote.

**Larry Phillips**, Larry Phillips represents Ballard, Fremont, Queen Anne, Magnolia, downtown, and Capital Hill on the County Council. He spoke briefly about trends and direction at the national and state level. Larry will run for re-election this year. He spoke in favor of the Parks Levy and the 911 Emergency Levy, both of which must be renewed. Sound Transit II will extend Light Rail to Northgate in the north, and toward Tacoma in the south. Larry is not enthusiastic about swapping King County Airport for the railroad right-of-way to use as a trail. In any future Charter amendments, voters should examine candidates carefully. Larry's salmon bake will be Saturday, May 19.

Q: Elected vs. appointed election officials?

A: Larry favors appointed election officials. Professional officials can be removed for cause and replaced if necessary, but elected officials are more difficult to hold accountable.

Q: Who chairs the Charter commissions?

A: Former Governor Mike Lowry and Lois Norton co-chair.

Q: Airport swap - more commercial airline service?

A: The Port says they have no desire to make any changes, at this point. We're not sure what long-range plans they might have. General aviation is the heaviest user of King County International Airport, right now.

Q: All mail voting - can we still have walk-in voting locations?

A: Vote-by-mail was tested in the viaduct vote in Seattle. The Council is still looking at how many walk-in voting locations we need.

Q: How did the viaduct vote go?

A: The meaning of the vote is subject to debate, but the mechanics worked very well.

Q: Vote by mail - change the size of precincts?

A: Larry wants "walkable" sized precincts.

**Bylaws**. Dean Fournier referred to 7 pages of by-laws posted at the back of the room, showing changes proposed by the Bylaws committee. Dean reviewed some of the significant changes. **Motion** of the Bylaws committee **passed** by a show of hands.

### **Resolutions.**

**Oppose renewal of Fast Track**. Stan Sorscher introduced the resolution to oppose renewal of Trade Promotion Authority ("Fast Track"). The resolution passed unanimously by a show of hands.

**Port Commissioner**. Call for an investigation, provide for censure in the event the investigation finds wrongdoing, and call for the resignation of Pat Davis and any other complicit commissioners.

Since the resolution was not published in the Demogram, the Chair must rule on the timeliness of the subject

to justify bringing the resolution forward. Scott ruled that the issue is timely. **Members approved** bringing this resolution to the floor, by a show of hands.

Pat Emerson expressed reservation that this language may impugn commissioners who are not at fault.

Alec Fiskén spoke in favor of the resolution. He said he personally likes the commissioners. The Port Commission needs credibility and trust. This resolution moves in that direction.

An argument against the resolution is that we need to be sure we have a good candidate to take the place of any commissioner who is removed.

David Garcia spoke in favor of the resolution. We need to have confidence in the Board, and commissioners should act in open and comply with open meetings laws.

Jean Arnott expressed outrage that this issue hurts credibility of all political figures.

Resolution passed overwhelmingly by a show of hands.

### **Audit Committee.**

Norma Miller chaired the Audit Committee. Norma also audited the system last year. Her emphasis is on having proper processes and controls in place. The committee analyzed a sample of the expenses. Norma quickly went through items documented in the audit. **Members voted in favor** of accepting the report of the Audit Committee.

Norma Miller chaired the ,06 Audit Committee. Norma also chaired last year's audit. She noted that the committee's review is not a true audit, but rather a financial review with an emphasis on having proper processes and controls in place. Norma quickly reviewed the approach and issues addressed in the review, including an analysis of a random sample of the deposits and expenses from 2006. The committee found all documentation and calculations to be in order, with no evidence of questionable practices. The committee made a few minor recommendations for further strengthening documentation of Treasurer procedures, and is satisfied that the books for 2006 are complete, comprehensive and thorough. Members voted to accept the report of the Audit Committee.

### **Budget.**

Donna Boysen presented the 2007 budget, which was published in the Demogram. Donna said the budget is conservative with respect to both expenses and projected income.

Steve Zemke asked about projected expenses for donations to political campaigns. Scott acknowledged that we are a partisan organization and our practice is to make political contributions in various races. Scott proposed we accept the budget as presented, the Executive Board can scrub this out, run the revision in the Demogram, then we can revisit this issue in a month or two. **Motion** made and seconded to accept this budget and amend it as Scott suggested. **Motion passed** by show of hands.

### **Reports**

State party. John Webber and Janet Miller showed a calendar of events in the 2008 caucus cycle. Bev Marcus asked about the February 5 primary situation. Janet said this may be clarified by the time of our next General Meeting. Chad Lupkes encouraged Janet and John to vote to hold the State Convention in King County.

King County. Sarajane Siegfriedt reported that King County has so far early-endorsed incumbents Alec Fiskén for Port Commissioner, Scott Noble for Assessor, Larry Phillips, Larry Gosset and Down Constantine for King County Council. Endorsements for open seats will follow the posted endorsement procedure. The Legislative Action Committee invited Jim McIntire to report on the Legislative session at the Northgate Library. Chad said the King County organization will need membership help if the convention comes to Bellevue.

Treasurer's report. Donna Boysen announced the income and expenses and current status for the month.

Membership Committee. Betty Means compared our membership now, relative to 2003 membership - the corresponding year in the 2004 caucus cycle. Scott renewed his challenge to members to bring a new member or guest to the meeting.

PCO training will be Saturday, this week at the Olympic View Church. Bring your PCO Handbook, prepared by the State organization. Bernadette Laqueur showed a precinct map, showing which have PCO's and which do not.

### **Port Commission.**

Fred Feldman is an environmental activist. He helped ensure we have a tug stationed at Neah Bay to protect Puget Sound and the Straits of Juan De Fuca. Fred studied killer whales for many years. Fred went through the history of the cruise ship industry, from the point of view of an environmental activist.

Q: What's happening in Canada?

A: Canada competes with our Ports for traffic. They have a different regulatory situation.

Q: Is this a report-out or do we have an action for the 46<sup>th</sup> District?

A: In the near future, a meeting of the Port will deal with PCB's. Sediment management. Maintenance dredging.

Shippers should pay for the tug at Neah Bay. The tug has responded dozens of times, already.

### **Candidates**

Gael Tarleton is running for Port Commissioner, against Bob Edwards. Gael quickly reviewed her background and accomplishments in transportation. She is currently at the UW to develop global research partnerships.

Venus Velazquez is running for City Council - position #3. Venus has a track record for getting things done and doing what's right.

Tim Burgess is running for position #7 on the City Council. He was a Seattle Police officer. He did relief work in East Africa, and ran a business for 21 years. Tim served on the Ethics commission and chaired the Queen Anne Community Council.

Sally Clark is running to keep her seat on the Council. Sally emphasized workforce development and strong neighborhoods.

Bruce Harrell is also running for Peter Steinbrueck's seat. He grew up in Seattle. He is a teamster and worked in the civil rights movement.

Sherry Carr is running for School Board position 2. The new superintendent looks like a great leader. We are ready for change in the school system relying on the new superintendent's experience in school systems.

Lisa Stuebing was chair of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Democrats, and is running for School Board. Our schools have a 50% dropout rate, The official figure is 65%, but that figure includes GED's. Graduation is built on relationships with family, community and teachers.

Peter Maier is running for School board position 1. He chaired the Schools First levy campaign. The School Board needs to be steady and focused.

Sally Soriano is the incumbent in position 1. She worked with other organizations to stop charter schools in a voter referendum. Sally held a math forum. The new superintendent is a top educator with a clear

understanding of what happens in the classroom.

**Good of the Order.**

Sylvia Haven asked for volunteers to work in polling locations.

Barbara Whitt announced movie night with "Kilowatt Ours" a movie about the US energy policy.

David Garcia talked about Ken Burns World War II documentary. A campaign persuaded Ken Burns to include Hispanic accomplishments in the documentary.

Steve Zemke warned people to be careful about posting to washingtonvotes.org, because the information can be used for political targeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher