

46<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
General Meeting Minutes  
April 17, 2008

Chair Javier Valdez reported almost 2,000 attended the District Caucus. Janet Miller had us very well organized. He thanked all the volunteers and Bernadette Lacquer who organized them. Barbara Whitt organized all the food. Dean Fournier and Sarajane Siegfriedt co-chaired the Platform Committee.

At the 7<sup>th</sup> CD Caucus, we will be electing 9 delegates and one alternate to National. The State Party will send out the "Official Call" to the meeting.

Javier is the 7<sup>th</sup> CD rep to the State Party Executive Board. Next steps on the "Top Two" Primary: the state Exec Board voted 17-1 (Javier voting against) to hold local nominating conventions to choose our nominee, with voting limited to PCOs. Javier asked that the voting be more representative, such as the precinct caucus attendees. The convention will follow our candidate forum at our regular May meeting. Delegates to the state convention will elect statewide nominees. CD nominees will be chosen at the CD caucus.

The nomination will not mean a whole lot, because Sam Reed has already put forward his sample ballot. All candidates will indicate the party they prefer (not that the party prefers them). We are required to nominate only one person. PCO votes will be weighted according to how your precinct went to Kerry in 2004 (same number of votes as at our recent precinct caucus). It will be up to us to let the public know who is our candidate. More details in next month's Demogram.

Our separate endorsement process will happen in June. Is there a candidate to run against Sam Reed? No one has stepped forward yet.

Donna Boyson's Treasurer's report shows \$14,983 in April, mostly from the caucus. Paid out \$4,930 Balance \$20,080.

### **Candidates**

Gerry Pollet, candidate for our open House seat, spoke. He reminded us of how many volunteers were trained at their house to do doorbelling in 2004 and 2006. He just returned from Washington D.C. where he had 15 appointments about adding \$200 million for Hanford clean-up and opposing Bush's efforts to dump more waste while not cleaning up. He emphasized his skills as a grassroots organizer who has built coalitions across the state, such as for the Growth Management Act. It's not about policy alone. Gerry was a lawyer lobbying and organizing for Citizens for Balanced Growth. We need to fight hard for open government. We have to fight the developers and the lobbyists to retain and regain our rights. We can no longer see if there is a pipeline running through our neighborhood, and the safety record of that pipeline. A citizen can be sued for going after those records. We need to change that law.

King County Superior Court Candidate Marianne Spearman has been a judge for 13 years, pro tem and was appointed 1995 in Kirkland, served in KC District Court for the past eight years. She has the support of lawyers, judges and court staff and tries to be very fair to the litigants.

King County Superior Court Candidate Rebecca Graham is running for an open seat. Incumbent Doug McBroom is endorsing her. Her parents were active in the civil rights movement, her African American father and mother, the daughter of Jewish European immigrants. Her mother went to University of Chicago Law School. Rebecca is rated exceptionally well qualified and well qualified from all the legal bar-rating groups. She has heard a wide range of types of cases and has fought for underprivileged and underserved, from civil misdemeanors to complex felonies. She has presided over thousands of hearings. She is active in the community, a volunteer in public schools and helping homeless women.

Superior Court Judge Susan Craighead was appointed by the Governor last September. She has been a public defender and has defended every minority in the community. She was born with a genetic condition that affects everything in her life and she understands what it is like. Susan graduated from Harvard Law School and wanted to share it with people in poverty. She has also worked with contract negotiating committee for SEIU Local 6. The law belongs to all of us. She does not yet have an opponent.

Jay Inslee's district director gave an update. There are 11 precincts of the 1<sup>st</sup> CD in our LD. Jay is spending a lot more time in D.C. as the pace heats up. He's working on energy, economics and ending the war in Iraq, protecting consumers, our civil liberties (FISA) and supporting Wild Sky, the salmon and the polar bears. The district office is available to help with any Federal agency you may need help with.

LD House candidate Scott White asked first-time attendees to be recognized. He said the growth wasn't all due to me, the credit for the growth of the 46<sup>th</sup> had to be shared with G.W. Bush. He has led the King County Legislative Action Committee, with very successful lobby days in Olympia. He serves on the board of Humanities Washington, appointed by the Governor, and is active in Seattle Works. He has worked for 15 years in state and local government, writing laws and negotiating budgets. Policy matters. The devil is in the details. Values are what bind us all here. We are all neighbors. Most of us are involved in other organizations and are engaged. He encouraged us to look at the platform posted on our website. It is grassroots activism at its best. We care about fully funding education, protecting our environment and Puget Sound. Scott gave his cell phone number so he can be accessible.

### **Business**

Bernadette presented new PCOs (please correct spelling); Matthew McShee, Brian Walker, Chris McMillan, Gloria Schmidt, LaDonna Underwood, Ashton Rezayat, Stan Moffett, Angelina de Caracena, Adam Pope, Mariette Poirier, Robert Stern, Carlee Savage, Andrew Hastings, Jason Osgood, Nels Peterson, Elizabeth Willmott.

Not present but voted in as PCOs: Maribeth Capeloto, Chuck Sloane, Zach Carstensen, Don Horman, Jan Click, Tom Veatch, Phillip Shack, Nor van Doren, Allison King.

Betty Means announced 731 members. We are 90 away from our record of 821 in 2004, and it is only April.

### **Program on Magnuson Park**

Gerry introduced the issue of what is happening at Magnuson Park / Sand Point. Each group was given 10 minutes to present with 10 minutes for question and answer following. Friends of Magnuson Park had the first segment, and Friends of Athletic Fields / Seattle Youth Soccer and LVR Soccer the second. Four people delivered parts of each presentation. We previously passed a resolution asking the City Council to limit the number of lit playfields in the park. Subsequently, Friends of Magnuson Park and the City reached an agreement phasing in, and limiting the number of lit fields. There is now a lawsuit by Friends challenging Army Corps permission to fill in wetlands for fields, and replace with new built wetlands. Gerry reported that the announcement of the lawsuit made it appear that the 46<sup>th</sup> had endorsed it, which Friends has fixed on its website.

Friends of Magnuson Park likes sports fields in balance, that do not displace habitat. The Parks Dept is not building wetlands, they are destroying some existing healthy wetlands. The money is 80% for athletic fields, each accommodating two or three games at once, with enough lighting of the north end of Lake Washington “to light the Mall of Americas inside out.” Doug reminded us of the work of Warren Magnuson in establishing NOAA and deeding the park land to the city. Two buildings at the park are being considered for 30- and 50-year leases for a privately operated indoor soccer club, Hangar 27. This could set a dangerous precedent of leasing a public facility that was given for free to an exclusive club-like environment, with exclusive participation. This is about Democratic values. The original issue was of natural parkland vs. artificial turf and light of 15 regional parks, in excess of lighting in Safeco Field. This is irresponsible development of a park, in addition to the environmental issues. This is rare open space and rare wetlands, so let’s protect it. They want to fill in 5.86 acres of wetland. No developer in this city would be allowed to do this. This park has the third richest habitat in the city, just after Discovery Park, and 75% of the \$15 million will be for sports fields. They cut out safe pedestrian and bike access to Burke-Gilman and restrooms. They are doing the absolute minimum for public assess.

Friends of Athletic Fields, LVR Soccer and Seattle Youth Soccer , President of LVR Youth Soccer Club, representing kids thanked Gerry for the opportunity to speak.,. He noted that they did not get to make a presentation several years ago when the 46<sup>th</sup> passed its resolution supporting Friends’ position – which was before a compromise was reached with the Council on new fields and lighting. History of the project: Ed Delassandro Youth Soccer, supports the project as being well-balanced. They also support wetlands. They reduced the number and hours of use of the playing fields, as well as the lighting. This used to be under water, until 1910, and was a Naval Air Station with 6 runways built in 1953. The acreage was transferred to the City of Seattle in 1997. The number of ball fields was cut from 13 to 9 (seven lighted). The Pro Parks levy budget of \$200 million

included \$18 million for playing fields. Phase 2 work started in 2008 and is going on now. LVR is an all-volunteer soccer club with 2,200 children, 220 teams from all over the city. Youth soccer practices from 5 to 6 p.m. or 6 to 7 p.m., when parents are available to transport their kids. In October it gets dark at 4:30. They offer scholarships to anyone who wants one. This is a public endeavor, not private. Ultimate Frisbee players also use the fields.

There is a website for updates. The 6 acres of wetland being filled are being compensated by 10 acres of new wetlands and 4 acres being enhanced. The plan concentrates all the fields in one area, keeps human activity and lighting in one area, to leave the rest of the park as natural as possible. The design maintains connectivity between wetlands. More documentation is on the website.

Q: In addition to children playing soccer, what are the other needs of children in the community for recreation?

A: There are many other users. It's a multi-use park. It's 23% of the project or 13% of the project site. The joint athletic facilities program with the schools said we must fix the fields we have before we make new ones. There are 22 unfunded fields that need fixing.

Q: Light pollution is such an issue for bird migration. Why are you adding to the light pollution?

A: They will have the lowest impact technology we can find. It has been challenged twice in court and upheld. The Corp of Engineers upheld the plans. We've mitigated the light as much as we can. We've compromised as much as we can. All this mitigation, fewer hours, etc, came about as a result of the pressure from the Friends of Magnuson Park.

Q: I heard, that the reason the strong lights were installed at Nathan Hale was so they could be recorded, for adult games.

A: The light is needed for safety. Kids can't play safely at dusk without lighting.

LVR=Laurelhurst, View Ridge, Ravenna. We are reasonable people who care about our city and care about our kids and their recreational opportunities.

Friends: The light will permanently change the nature of the park. The park's wetlands have a 5% chance to succeed, because of the lights right next to them. It negates the efforts of 10,000 citizens who changed their fluorescent lights to save electricity.

### **Neighborhood Challenge – Kathryn Lewis, 46<sup>th</sup> LD Lead**

[Kathryn@kathrynelewis.com](mailto:Kathryn@kathrynelewis.com)

Tim Keller and Chris Rule are working on this. We are working for Democratic wins in November. We have a golden opportunity to build the party. We need to register every Democrat in Washington State. Between 63% and 67% in the state are registered. When Seattle residents vote, 80% vote Democratic. We can register 5,000 Democrats in the 46<sup>th</sup>. We registered 400 at the precinct caucus, about 25 per precinct, up to 30 or 40 where there is a lot of turnover, students, etc.

We believe we can increase our total Democratic votes by 100,000 in the state.

October 4<sup>th</sup> is the last day to register to vote for the General. July 19<sup>th</sup> is the last day to register for the primary.

We have 50 to 60 PCOs who've raised their hands, a dozen organizers, and another 250 to 300 volunteers. We have 217 precincts in the 46<sup>th</sup>, and 16,246 people turned out for the caucuses. We had 22 caucus site organizers, so we will follow that same strategy. We need to walk every neighborhood to register voters. We will look for newcomers and young people also. We can register them and correctly ID them as Democrats in each household.

How much time will it take? Could be a few hours on a few days by the first of July. Three hours on three days between now and July 19<sup>th</sup> would be minimum. It would be more fun and effective to work with a team walking your block. We will provide walking lists (that recognize bodies of water or major streets, so they are walkable). Regional organizers will be responsible for keeping track of lists. Good to meet for breakfast on a Saturday and then walk.

Teams make contact with every house on the block, knock on the door, register those missing and confirm those who are there are correct. We make notes and confirm the lists. All the data will be entered by the 46<sup>th</sup>. We have 5,000 registration forms already in hand! King County was helpful and welcomes the influx of new registrations. Be sure to check the two boxes that you are 18 and you are a citizen (at the top) are mandatory. If you skip the Driver's License number, it will take much longer. They must sign the middle and the bottom box both, or it will not be valid. Voter registration forms are also available online, in English, Spanish and Chinese. Make sure you use your residential address. A P.O. box will void the registration.

Remembering Tip O'Neill's "All politics is local," this is as local as it gets. This is a very engaging activity. It communicates how important their voice is. We hope to have 8 or 10 volunteers per precinct, going in pairs, about 40 doors per team. We are building our database, as well as building relationships. We want to make sure people turn out in November also.

Apartments and condos? We'll need to find a volunteer to help canvass, using our caucus lists. We have many people in shared living situations, student housing, multi-family situations, etc. The team is working on buttons to identify canvassers.

What happens next? We need 12 regional organizers. We will distribute walking lists to them (the ROs). ROs will reach out to fill out ranks of Precinct Organizers, and Pos will reach out to people to be on precinct teams, will choose dates to walk.

There will be another training Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 10 to 11 a.m. at Olympic View Community Church, followed by canvassing from 11 to 1 p.m.

On Saturday, May 10 is nationwide Canvas Day. Chris is coordinating.

There is a canvassing event May 31<sup>st</sup>.

It would be good to have a door hanger to leave behind, to contact us if you want to register to vote. Will the 400 registrations from February 9<sup>th</sup> be on the walking lists? New registered are processed once a month.

Howard Dean's 50-state strategy got people elected in areas where we didn't know we had Democrats. The goal is to have an organic organization that lives and breathes and lasts.

We want to keep the precinct structure, or avoid having the same list given out to more than one volunteer. Take a clipboard. We will coordinate with High School registration efforts? Eileen Pollet responded that she has been registering voters at Roosevelt and will have new drives this Spring and Fall, and would like others to help.

Steve Zemke brought an urgent resolution to prevent a grove of 66 trees at Ingraham High School from being cut down to build a new school building. Without objection, the Chair ruled it is timely and the body voted to suspend the rules to vote on the resolution to call on the School Board and the Seattle School District to develop an alternative design for a site that does not require the destruction of 66 trees, and asking that they hold public hearings on the proposed design. The resolution passed.

Julian Wheeler announced the 9<sup>th</sup> annual meeting for people with disabilities at Evergreen State College May 15<sup>th</sup>(?). Applications are being accepted.

Winter Soldier has an event for veterans May 31<sup>st</sup> and are inviting people to join.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a Democrats Work event cleaning up the Green River. See [www.democratswork.org](http://www.democratswork.org). Darcy Burner will be there.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45.  
Minutes by Sarajane Siegfriedt