

46<sup>th</sup> Democrats  
Olympic View Church  
April 7, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:18 PM

Attending: Chad Lupkes, Betty Means, Shanna Sawatzki, Stan Sorscher, Stan Moffett, Erica Minshull, Barbara Whitt, Javier Valdez, Gerry Pollet, Kathryn Lewis, Dean Fournier, John Webber, Sarajane Siegfriedt, Peter Shapiro, Jason Sawatzki

Guest: Noah Burgher

Excused: Janet Miller, Elizabeth Willmott

Minutes from the March 3 meeting: Erica Minshull was excused, and not present. Minutes approved as amended.

Report from the Chair: Chad Lupkes gave a progress report on the Constant Contact account. We have over 500 members, which puts the account fee at \$30 per month. We will use it to send out Demograms and other wide-scale communications.

Chad went through the committee assignments for the State Party - Janet Miller will be on Resolutions, John Webber is on the Rules Committee, Javier Valdez is on the Executive Board representing the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

Javier explained the logic for choosing meeting sites in King County. Hotels near Sea-Tac meet the criteria used by the Party.

John Webber asked for direction in the event he and Janet need to act on bylaws and procedural questions that might come up, relating to a press release sent out by the agricultural and rural caucus. The issue turns on the authority of a caucus to speak on behalf of the Party.

State Party Report. Betty Means would like to attend the State Party meeting to hear about building a 50-state strategy by Organizing for America, including Washington State in particular.

County Party Report. Erica Minshull will run for the King County Delegate position at the General Meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor, so Betty will prepare ballots in the event of a contested race.

Sergeant At Arms Report. Barbara Whitt went to Prestige Copy and Print to see about having them print the Demogram. Prestige is a local family business. Their bid was about \$270 to print and fold. They can do mail merge for another \$40 to put on addresses, and mail them. We've been paying about \$300 per month, most months. Betty proposed getting other bids including mail merge. **Motion** by Shanna Sawatzki to ask to Barbara and Kathryn Lewis to recommend a print shop, based on mail merge, union-status, and local ownership. We could vote on their recommendation by email. **Motion passed** by voice vote.

Program Committee. Peter Shapiro said he and Sarajane had assembled a panel to speak on the Seattle Housing levy. A resolution will be brought to the membership. The

levy will be on the November ballot, in all likelihood. Bill Block, Adrienne Quinn, John Fox, and Rick Friedhoff, all active in housing and homelessness issues, will be the panelists. Charlie Royer is also invited. Royer co-chairs the advisory committee for the City. Sarajane hopes the event will be influential in setting direction regarding affordable housing in the larger City process. The program would run from 7:50 to 8:30 PM. Gerry is concerned about keeping the schedule.

Our election for King County Delegate will be before the program.

... Discussion of our practice when candidates want to drop by and speak at our General Meetings ... .

Gerry asked about May, June and August programs. The candidates' forum for the City candidates will be in May. The 32<sup>nd</sup> District is not interested in running a joint forum with us. The Elections Committee wants to have a separate meeting for County Council, County Executive and Port commissioners. Chad is looking for nearby party organizations to act as co-hosts. If we can get co-sponsors, we will find a venue, set a date and work turnout. Gerry asked for volunteers to help set up a "north-end" event. Gerry would also like to coordinate with community clubs.

Gerry asked for volunteers to help with the candidate forum in May for City candidates.

... Brief discussion of the propriety of volunteering to work on the forum, if you have already endorsed a candidate ... . Gerry endorsed David Miller, but has since asked to have his name removed from the list of endorsers. Some of the Board members have endorsed candidates. Gerry reminded us that anyone working on questions and moderating the event should be fair and not have endorsed candidates prior to the event.

Legislative Action Committee. Sarajane talked about the homeowner bill of rights, the payday lending bill, funding for GAU (General Assistance Unemployable). ... Discussion about the etiquette of sending out call-to-action emails on legislation ... .

Treasurer's report. Stan Moffett gave a brief report on the accounts. Expense and revenue for the month were nearly equal.

Financial Review Committee. Norma Miller has agreed to review the records. She and Donna will get together to sort out the details. On March 19, Raymond T. Cole's estate made a large contribution to the District. Kathryn Lewis said the Finance Committee prefers to treat the legacy as a fund to use for grants. A special committee would administer the fund, which would be kept separate from the budget. Criteria would include, for instance; how will grants help people in the 46<sup>th</sup> District; the activity should be consistent with our ideals; grant decisions should be non-divisive and self sustaining.

... Discussion about capital expenditures, limits on the number of grants, seed projects, and more general projects ... . Decisions should be shared with the general membership. The bylaws provide that expenditures must be projected in a budget approved by the membership, or be approved outside the budget by a vote of the membership.

**Motion** by John Webber to set up a committee to make recommendations to the Board regarding criteria, the review process, approval process for proposals, and necessary

budgetary and accounting controls; and further, than we spend nothing from the fund until this is approved by the general membership (as an amendment to the budget).

**Motion passed** by voice vote.

Online contributions. Kathryn explained the options for an online service. Kathryn is getting testimonials from other groups and will see if our bank provides this service, and what it would cost.

Membership Report. Betty Means went through the membership categories. About 600 recruitment letters went out to PCOs former members, and major donors. We may run a little under the corresponding members for 2005. If we get an online service, we may get additional money from that.

Tally committee. Betty passed out draft recommendations from the committee to formalize our procedures for counting votes. The proposed rules cover the voting methods typically used in our meetings. Javier Valdez, Dean Fournier, John Webber will work with Betty to bring a final version to the May meeting of the Executive Board.

Update on Precinct Boundaries. Javier Valdez reported that 9 precincts are getting new boundaries. We will lose 3 precincts, and gain a new one. Seven PCOs will be affected. Bernadette Laqueur's precinct is being eliminated. She would remain a PCO until the next election cycle.

Bylaws. The Bylaws revisions will be in the Demogram. Dean suggested that we modify the printed version to account for "Operating Rules" such as the rules we talked about for the Cole Fund. ... Discussion about the relative priority of Robert's Rules of Order and our Operating Rules ... . On second thought, we will propose the resolution in the Demogram as printed. ... Additional extended discussion on the relative priority of Robert's Rules and Operating Rules ... .

Community Outreach. Chad and Elizabeth Willmott update the Community calendar. The Greenwood-Phinney Chamber of Commerce wants to set up a Green Jobs Forum. That could be a proposal for the Cole Fund.

Javier would like us to host a booth for the Lake City Pioneer Day, and we need slim jims to hand out. In the past, Brian and Paula King manned the booth, and they may be available this year.

When Elizabeth leaves, we should find someone to pick up this committee.

Elections Committee. Janet sent out her report in email.

Old Business. None

New Business. Sarajane circulated a petition regarding the "Three Strikes" bill in the state legislature.

Good of the Order. Noah Burgher wants David Bloom to speak at the General meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher

