

46<sup>th</sup> Democrats General Meeting  
Olympic View Elementary School  
April 16, 2009

Chad Lupkes called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Chad welcomed new participants, PCOs, and new members.

Bob Ferguson led the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes. **Motion** made and seconded to approve the February and March minutes.  
**Motion passed** by show of hands.

Chad encouraged members to sign up on Constant Contact to get the Demogram online.

Raymond T. Cole included the 46<sup>th</sup> Democrats in his will. His estate was recently settled, and we received Mr. Cole's legacy. Chad referred to his article in the Demogram for more details.

King County Female Delegate. Erica Minshull was nominated, seconded and she accepted the nomination. No other nominations. Erica is a PCO and became involved in the Obama campaign. Being the delegate will help her continue meeting neighbors and building stronger relationships. Erica was **elected unanimously**, by show of credentials.

Erica was an At-Large member of the Executive Board, Her At-Large position is now open, and will be filled at the next General Meeting.

Panel on Seattle Housing Levy:

Sarajane Siegfriedt introduced Bill Block, Adrienne Quinn, John Fox, and Rick Friedhoff.

Adrienne Quinn outlined the history of housing levies in Seattle. This is the fifth such levy since the early 80's. A bond levy in 1981 funded senior housing. The last levy was passed in 2002. It focused on rental housing for low-income residents. The goal was that at least 59% of the money should go to the lowest income families. Over 70% of the money was used for that purpose.

We also have an emergency rental assistance program to provide transitional support. Adrienne showed a map of housing supported by funds from the levy. The program has not had any foreclosures.

Adrienne talked about the Acquisition Opportunity Program for buying under-priced property.

Bill Block talked about vulnerable low-income individuals who often have special needs. The Journal of the American Medical Association recently ran a favorable article about a housing program in Seattle for people with alcohol-related problems. Seattle has almost no affordable housing for low-income families. Bill said our levies have consistently exceeded their goals in terms of providing housing as intended. Citizen oversight committees oversee our programs.

Rick Friedhoff sees housing levies from the perspective of an organization that implements programs funded by levies. He described rebuilding structures damaged in the Nisqually earthquake. The Compass Center, where he works, helps chronically homeless people. The Center acquires properties, and provides services to people who need help. Ideally, we can use levy funds to buy desirable properties in good locations, close to shopping and transportation. Sarajane asked about sources of income for people seeking subsidized housing.

Bill spoke briefly about the budget cuts that will come to a vote in the next few days.

John Fox is an advocate for housing levies and low-income housing. The levy is more important than ever before. The 2002 levy passed by a thin margin. The 2009 levy may need an extra effort to pass. He encouraged everyone to vote for the resolution, and to work to pass the levy.

Sarajane described details that she expects to see in the levy language.

Q: Who will oppose the levy?

A: Adrienne said businesses have told her they don't want higher taxes, but that business won't oppose and may support the levy. People are feeling strapped by the economic problems.

Support and funding for the "yes" campaign is largely grass-roots. Adrienne asked for donations if possible.

Q: Telephone survey - funded by whom?

A: The City of Seattle surveyed citizens to measure priorities and to determine where is the greatest need?

Q: Does low-cost housing attract crime and alcohol-related problems?

A: Actually not. Housing services improve behavior. Experience is much better than what neighbors fear. Housing helps people stabilize their lives.

Q: Survey results?

A: Not posted yet online - once the report is completed, it will be on the Seattle Office of Housing web site.

**Motion** by Sarajane to support the housing levy, as printed in the Demogram. **Motion passed** by show of hands.

Chad looked forward to candidate forums in May, one at our general meeting, and the other in collaboration with the other LD's in Seattle.

### Candidates.

Dow Constantine is running for King County Executive. He said the 46<sup>th</sup> District has always been active and well-known. The County Housing Authority is separate from the Council, but the Council can create conditions for better housing. He mentioned incentives for green building practices as an example. Our tax system is skewed compared to other locations, with greater burdens at the lower end and less tax burden at the higher income levels.

Dow grew up in West Seattle and is currently Chair of the King County Council. We are facing budget cuts, which prevent us from serving the values we believe in politically. Dow

wants to be more efficient so we can implement the policies we need.

Rusty Williams thanked the 46<sup>th</sup> District for voting to rename the West Seattle Bridge after his mother. He is running for City Council, position 8.

He grew up in Seattle and has lived in the 46<sup>th</sup> District for many years. He agrees with our platform in every respect. He has a special interest in Magnuson Park. Rusty has held all kinds of jobs, so he can see issues from many perspectives. Seattle has a pioneering spirit and Rusty wants to turn that to our advantage.

Legislative Action Committee. Steve Zemke and Sarajane co-host the Legislative Action Committee. The LAC supported a bill to restore voting rights to felons. Steve said the budget problems have made this a very difficult session. Steve expects tax initiatives to go before voters. Steve said the homeowners' bill of rights was blocked by developers. The next session may reconsider some of our high-priority issues. He invited people to attend LAC meetings. The King County Democrats' web site has a signup utility to get emails about the committee.

Janet Miller announced the education bill passed today, without Ken Jacobsen's support.

Finance Report. Kathryn Lewis chairs the Finance Committee. Kathryn talked about Raymond Cole's gift to the District. Kathryn would like to see the legacy used in a sustainable way. The Executive Board set up a committee to plan how to make best use of the gift. Kathryn solicited ideas from members, and asked for volunteers to serve on the planning committee. The committee will develop criteria for spending the money, a process for evaluating proposals, and accounting rules.

Kathryn made a **motion** to amend our budget to add this gift to a restricted account, and not to spend the money until the committee's recommendation is approved by members. **Motion passed** by show of hands.

Q: Example of ideas?

A: Shanna Sawatzki suggested, for example, a grant to buy 46<sup>th</sup> District bags or ponchos that PCOs could purchase, with the sales revenue replenishing the fund.

Treasurer's Report. Stan Moffett gave a brief report. Barbara Whitt reported \$125 in food receipts, and \$88.60 from passing the hat, up to that pointing the evening.

Membership Report. Betty Means reported we are a little ahead of the corresponding membership in the last cycle. Our dues income is a little behind that.

PCO Report. Javier Valdez reported that about 12 precincts will be modified and we will lose a couple precincts.

Platform and Resolutions Committee. Dean Fournier referred to the bylaws changes as printed in the Demogram. Dean introduced members of the Bylaws committee. Dean went through some of the proposed changes. **Motion** by Dean Fournier to accept changes to the bylaws are printed in the Demogram. **Motion passed** by show of hands.

No DNC Report.

## No State Party Report.

King County Report. Dean said several elected officials spoke at the King County Democrats meeting. Dean outlined resolutions from the meeting.

## No New Business.

## No Old Business.

## Good of the Order.

Jordan Royer is running for City Council. The housing levy and affordable housing are important for the City. Everyone feels the economic pressure. Middle class families trying to raise children are facing challenges. City officials should listen to residents and look for common sense solutions. Jordan worked at the port and wants to keep good jobs in Seattle.

Sally Bagshaw is running for Jan Drago's seat on the City Council. Our transportation system is still not working. Sally was an attorney for WSU, UW, Metro, and in the prosecuting attorney's office. She is now retired. In her experience, government does not work for us. City offices don't communicate efficiently. The snow emergency is a case in point. Sally is talking to people in neighborhoods all over the City. She hears that public safety is a top concern. Sally knows Sheriff Sue Rahr. The Sheriff says good jobs and health care will help make society safer. Sally's heart is in community services. She put together a pro bono legal clinic for homeless women.

James Donaldson is running for Mayor. He has lived in Seattle since 1981, including his time with the Sonics. He is a small business owner, and has traveled all over the world. James got into politics recently. James believes our City needs better direction - getting organizations in the City government to work together better. James understands teamwork and leadership. His business operates in many cities in the area, but Seattle is the most difficult to deal with. James would advocate for small businesses to create good jobs. We need to keep our businesses healthy.

David Bloom is running for City Council. He is a long-time community organizer. He worked with many community organizations and has been an advocate for affordable housing and working people. We should invest in people and affordable housing. Low cost housing is disappearing as development and conversions eliminate existing units. We also need to invest in infrastructure. The City should propose a living wage initiative. Small businesses are the economic core of our neighborhoods. We should nurture and support small business.

David Ginsberg is running for Position 2 on City Council. He is motivated by his kids and by other kids in the City. David adopted his children under difficult circumstances. He wants them to have every opportunity as they grow up. Youth violence is a huge problem in many neighborhoods. He doesn't see a sense of urgency in the Council now, and he wants to get action on the issues that are important to him.

David Miller is running for position 8 on the City Council. He lives in the 46<sup>th</sup> District. He has 15 years experience with small business. He knows how important small businesses are for a community. The City is not very responsive to small business. David has been active in local environmental issues. Growth needs to be responsible so we leave something valuable to the next generation. David has been active in

neighborhood issues. He has endorsements from many public figures. David has been talking to many residents in the City. He will work hard for everyone in the City,

Tom Carr is running for a third 4-year term as City Attorney. He grew up in the Bronx, next to the L-train. He worked his way through Law School. He worked on several important cases in the Justice Department. He has been a Democrat all his life. He is a "public safety person." The Republican solution for public safety is to build jails and put prisoners in them. Tom asks, "How can we use our facilities better?" We should coordinate social services with legal services. In 2005, he helped create the Seattle Community Court. It looks for root cause problems rather than send people to jail. This has reduced incarcerations and has reduced the crimes in that category.

Skip Knox represents "Feet First." He showed a map that seemed to be a work in progress showing trails and routes for getting around the city. Feet First is looking for feedback from the public.

[Sec. note: see web site at  
[http://www.feetfirst.info/mapping/index\\_html](http://www.feetfirst.info/mapping/index_html) ]

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher