

46<sup>th</sup> Democrats  
Olympic View Elementary School  
May 21, 2009

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

Sally Bagshaw led the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes from the April General Meeting were approved by show of cards.

Chad announced that membership dues can be paid online through the 46dems.com web site. Five members have already paid their dues with the web utility.

At-Large Position. Elizabeth Willmott stepped down from the Executive Board. Erica Minshull took Elizabeth's place, last month. This month we are filling Erica's At Large position.

Janet Miller nominated Sheila Coles. Sheila spoke on her behalf, saying she has more time for working in the Democratic Party and she is looking forward to sharing in the decision-making process to make things happen.

**Motion** to approve by acclamation **passed**.

Scott White spoke briefly, saying that Phyllis Kenney and Ken Jacobsen could not make this meeting, but all three of our elected representatives want to speak at next month's meeting. Scott is happy to meet with any of his constituents, one-on-one.

Janet Miller encouraged everyone to attend the larger "nearly-City-wide" candidates' forum at the Labor Temple, which will involve more races than our meeting tonight.

**First panel - City Council candidates:**

Richard Conlin, David Ginsberg, David Bloom, Sally Bagshaw, Dorsal Plants, Joshua Kaplan (not present) Martin Caple, Jessie Israel, Nick Licata, Bobby Forch, David Miller, Michael O'Brien, Michael Rosencrantz, Jordan Royer, Rusty Williams.

Position #2

**Q1:** What will you do to improve openness and transparency in City government? Do you support creating an open government ombudsman to assist the public with records and open meetings?

Richard Conlin: ... created open government committee ... revised handling of public records, and will look at greater participation in government ... reaching out to others in the community. Yes for ombudsman.

David Ginsberg: Yes for ombudsman ... open government is key for democracy ... open government is about process that leads to the decision ... it is important to allow media to be there.

Position #4

**Q1:** What two specific things would you do to have the City collaborate with, and improve, Seattle's Public Schools?

David Bloom: First, emphasize City funding for early childhood education, and after school programs for middle school, funded by the City as a way to avoid problems ... second, engage in dialog about shared use of facilities ... too many silos in the City.

Sally Bagshaw: Her campaign started by talking with the School Board members. How can we align the City and School Board activities? Second, include more police officers in a friendly way in the middle schools and high schools ... police officers become trusted, and students will talk to them.

Dorsal Plants: The crux of issue is communication ... must communicate better with school board, parents, teachers and students ... put police officers in schools, and increase mentorship programs to encourage and keep kids in the schools. Also explore the idea of the City taking care of parks.

Position #6

**Q1:** Please describe two specific priorities you will work towards to make Seattle greener and more sustainable?

Martin Caple: As an architect, he designed a solar home on Queen Anne Hill, many years ago. ... programs to support green practices ... take care of tree canopy ... restrict cutting down trees.

Jessie Israel: Jessie worked with King County Parks ... 25% of park revenue comes from sources other than taxes ... make sure parks stay open ... support transit that works with peoples lives ... walkable communities ... build strong green economy around home improvements, anchored right here in Seattle.

Nick Licata: ... create urban forest commission ... canopy coverage is 18%, we need more and more quickly ... push green buildings and public, public-private partnerships ... San Francisco set high standards, Boston too ... Seattle is behind the curve.

Position #8:

**Q1:** What are the biggest issues facing North Seattle and the 46<sup>th</sup> District, and what would you do to address them?

Bobby Forch: ...transportation, creating connectivity and creating jobs ... the foundation of our economy is getting people back to work ... advance major projects to get people working to secure our economy.

David Miller: It's been 60 years since we were promised sidewalks. We should start a down payment ... come up with specific plan, tied to storm water remodeling ... do a better job of growing gracefully ... preserve trees, housing for seniors, and keep our high quality of life.

Michael O'Brien: ...transportation, especially getting cross-town ... make existing roads work better for us now ... frequent reliable service connecting all neighborhoods ... sidewalks are critical for walkable communities ... prioritize sidewalks over a couple miles of freeway.

Michael Rosencrantz: ... transportation ... he has been working on 520 for 7 years ... jobs and the economy matter ... stick to the basics and do them well ... under-funded

services ... return power to the neighborhoods. He referred to the example of SDOT in Fremont

Jordan Royer: He lived in Wedgwood and lived in the neighborhood ... traffic issues ... worked in the Department of Neighborhoods ... steer people into urban neighborhoods ... need to do something and do it now. "I have experience working in government. My experience will help to get that done."

Rusty Williams: "Number one is Magnuson Park" ... new master plan for the park ... zoning changes in district ... carefully watch the zoning codes ... densifying must be done carefully, maintaining the character of the neighborhoods.

Position #2

Q2: The "public/private" partnerships idea promoted by the Mayor was endorsed by the City Council in the approval of long term leases of city-owned buildings in Magnuson Park to private, for-profit corporations. What is your position on this issue? Will you vote in favor of similar "partnerships" in the future? If so, what is your justification for doing so? (1 minute)

Conlin: Mayor brought contracts to the Council. We didn't feel the contracts met standards for public good and the Council rejected the leases. ... need to see demonstrated public benefit from public-private partnership ... the leases came back meeting the standards ... he will support contracts if they primarily benefit the public. If they primarily benefit private parties, then he won't support them.

Ginsberg: ... visited Magnuson park - what an opportunity in that property! We need to see a clear and obvious public benefit.

Position #4

Q2: How do we catch up on where we should be on our ten year plan to end homelessness?

Bloom: ... we should pass the proposed housing levy for this year. He is one of the original housing organizers from 1986 ... we've been remarkably successful in building affordable housing units ... require more of developers to include low-income housing.

Bagshaw: "I agree - passing the housing levy is critical." She too has worked on the housing levy ... in the prosecutor's office, she was involved with housing issues ... work with developers to arrange for new construction ... work with landlords to divide and sub-zone to make more units available.

Plants: ... agrees with David and Sally. Dorsal works in a homeless shelter ... not enough shelter beds ... goal is permanent housing, but there is nowhere for homeless to go ... take a look at the landlord liaison project.

Position #6

Q2: Tacoma has a free broadband network and Seattle has a large amount of unused fiber capacity belonging to private corporations. What are the pros and cons of sponsoring a similar free broadband network and would you support it?

Caple: We have other priorities ... build our economy, then we can consider free broadband ... we have huge issues to take care of in the City. In order to build the

economy, we need to grow business, invest in business, and not pass up opportunities.

Israel: We have a debilitating funding crisis ... broadband is not our top priority ... funding is getting worse ... cutting public health, and other social services. We should support technology, but we have nuts and bolts things to take care of now in the City.

Licata: "I support free broadband." Major roadblock is the last 100 yards to the house ... we have a network for the public buildings now ... major capital investment up front, and technologies are always changing ... this is not a dead issue ... we are watching it.

Position #8.

**Q2: What is your vision for transit oriented developments at Northgate and serving the rest of North Seattle, and how will you achieve it?**

Forch: ... take a holistic view ... buses light rail, walkability ... comprehensive plan ... good connections east west and north-south to get us through the city.

Miller: The 46<sup>th</sup> District is blessed by stations at Roosevelt and Northgate ... justify and make these investments work ... the Northgate neighborhood plan was tossed out ... it would have solved some of these walkability problems ... Northgate neighborhood plan is being blocked from updated.

O'Brien: We have a severe Housing shortage in the City ... lived here all his life ... couldn't afford to live here, now, if he had to buy it today ... we won't have diverse, engaging group of people ... we need a lot more housing ... put it near transit ... create communities that are friendly to transit, that do not rely exclusively on automobiles ... we need community input ... build up sidewalk structures.

Rosencrantz: We all agree on transit oriented development ... how do we create conditions in which neighborhoods will accept increasing density? ... higher quality of life and higher amenities ... work with developers ... broad acceptance from the public ... neighbor after neighbor must believe they are getting benefit from development.

Royer: He agrees with the other candidates. He lived in Rockridge (Oakland CA), near the light rail (BART) station. He saw development, amenities, restaurants ... opportunity of having zoning go along with development ... need planners to get back together again ... we need break down silos, and come up with good plans that people will understand and support.

Williams: Transit improvements are designed around commuter traffic ... but the plans ignore senior citizens who don't get services they need in the non-rush hour times of the day. Get smaller commuter vehicles to run at off-peak hours ... think about solutions for everybody.

Position #2

**Q3: What should Seattle do to protect and restore Puget Sound?**

Ginsberg: He lives in High Point, which is a green development. Longfellow Creek was daylighted a while ago ... green design features such as a bio-swale that purifies water before releasing it into Longfellow Creek ... this is an example of the things we can do.

Conlin: High Point is a great example - Conlin used it as an example in a conferences where he spoke ... drainage system is critical ... runoff from streets into drainage system and not treated ... we need to go in the direction of using swales to pre-treat the water ... salmon recovery ... clean up Duwamish.

Position #4

Q3: Sidewalks have been promised to North Seattle residents for decades. What can you do to make that happen and to encourage increased walking and bicycling?

Plants: Sidewalks come up in many meetings. Need bike trails and bike lanes - people walk on sidewalks, bicyclers need bike trails ... 60 years is a long time to not keep a promise ... add some teeth to neighborhood plans ... make it a negotiation between neighborhoods and the City.

Bagshaw: ... 3 things are under way; a bicycle master plan, a pedestrian plan, and complete streets ... bicycle riding needs to be safe ... we need to have a plan in place and work toward it ... "Vibrant downtown and vibrant neighborhoods are something I support and we can accomplish."

Bloom: ... replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct and building a new jail will consume our resources ... we need to change our priorities ... develop bicycle and pedestrian master plans, and work on all the things that we know work ... short distances encourage people to walk rather than get in their cars.

Position #6

Q3: What will you do to reduce youth violence in Seattle?

Licata: ... Don't cut money for community centers. They need to be kept open. If youth have no safe public place to go, they will go somewhere else ... before- and after-school programs ... focus on those people who are most likely to get into trouble ... case management and peer-to-peer mentoring programs, before they end up in the criminal justice system.

Israel: Make sure we fund the community policing program ... they need to be robust ... police working in the communities and in the schools will help prevent youth violence ... support schools and support teachers and administrators to prevent truancy ... 51% of our high school dropouts come from four schools ... embrace community organizations.

Caple: He spoke with Lynn Dotson, from AFT about how to be better advocates for strong public schools in Seattle ... same conversation should be held in Olympia ... start in the communities and households to build a sense of community.

Position #8

Q3: North Seattle has had overcrowded schools and faces serious additional overcrowding. How can City reviews and other action help ensure that school seats are available? What is your view of development impact fees on large multifamily housing projects to pay for some costs of additional school capacity?

Williams: We really need a state income tax ... it would provide more reliable consistent funding ... a sales tax is too inconsistent ... Seattle must lead the charge ... we can do that - we just have to show it to the rest of the state.

Royer: His daughters go to schools in north Seattle, so his family knows about overcrowding ... one daughter's favorite teacher is getting laid off ... he will listen to any new mechanism for funding ... we need to do something ... middle schools are bursting at the seams.

Rosencrantz: He attended Seattle public schools, and his children are in Seattle public schools ... every child should start kindergarten reading at grade level ... this is a good indicator of future success ... if people see good results, they will support levies.

O'Brien: We can talk about funding ... we need more money ... we should also talk about mega-projects that bleed money out of other programs, like schools ... priority should be schools ... housing levy should go to housing - we should not draw school funding from housing programs ... this just creates a new problem.

Miller: Right. Fees on housing will just raise costs ... our permitting process is broken, even for good developers ... we need to streamline the permitting process ... Yes on income tax ... yes on a fair way to assess fees on developers without just increasing housing prices at the same time.

Forch: Bobby is 53 years old. He was a school teacher 30 years ago. He had 37 kids in the classroom ... this is a travesty ... this is not the right environment to learn. Education is very personal to Bobby. "Where you put your time and your money is important" ... he will entertain new funding sources, but we need to get the funding to support schools.

### **Closing statements:**

Williams: The biggest elephant in the room is the economy. We can't print money ... we need to tighten our belts and do a better job with the money we have.

Royer: Living wage is a concern ... a higher minimum wage would drive jobs out of Seattle ... we should make it easier for small businesses to thrive.

Rosencrantz: ... grow the economy ... 5000 acres of underutilized industrial land in King County should be used for green economy ... worked on many developments where trees were threatened, and where stakeholders collaborated to give the developer flexibility to produce terrific results for housing and preservation of trees ... an "us versus them" mentality will result in less housing and less development.

O'Brien: Schools and transit - things that matter day in and day out - don't cost a lot of money ... invest in things to make Seattle a great place to live ... priorities for things that are important, and stand up against (expensive) things that are not. "I'm going to make those hard decisions."

Miller: His first public place to announce his candidacy was right here ... put leadership on Seattle City Council ... hands on experience in creating jobs ... preserve environmental health ... those kinds of things you want on the City Council ... "I have hands on leadership experience. I want to work with you to make your City better."

Forch: Our biggest challenge is the economy. His announcement said "Jobs advocate enters the race." He has been in the belly of the beast, and he knows where the barriers are and how to streamline process. He increased spending on small businesses and disadvantaged business by 40%.

Licata: Nick hates yes-or-no questions. Basically, he is the person who will push our interests, and ask hard questions. We need someone who makes decisions in an open way. He has a track record of making sure we have open government. He asked for our endorsement.

Israel: She lives in Ballard, and ran the Center for Women and Democracy ... she was a Peace Corp volunteer ... in her job, she helped run parks in tight fiscal times ... warning: public funding of political campaigns will help conservative candidates ... she will make policy decisions based on data, not ideology.

Cagle: He will bring a positive, collaborative considerative voice to the Council ... efficient transportation ... committed community leader, with a long history as a preservationist, who helped save the Market ... we need leaders who are committed, passionate smart and ready to go.

Plants: Ultimately, issues come down to communication and open government ... a reporter was dragged out of a City budget meeting ... we have no public notes on some of the jail deliberations ... we need open government, completely accountable to the people ... communication can get homeless people off the street and back in the community where they belong.

Bagshaw: She was a lawyer who worked for UW, Metro, Norm Maleng in the Civil Division, then Dan Satterberg, serving the public and seeking justice ... her passion is around working with you to get things done ... she worked to make sure every kid had the best education they could get ... she wants to have an environmental science program ... Sally set up a pro bono legal clinic for women.

Bloom: We live in one of the greatest cities in the US, with a great progressive tradition ... opportunity to continue to build the caring compassionate community we want it to be ... we are starting to lose some of the great qualities we need ... we should set a goal of building 5000 additional units of affordable housing.

Ginsberg: He served as precinct captain and was an officer in his LD party ... he has seen fear in co-workers who were laid off and neighbors who may lose their homes ... vision provides hope, and is the way to deal with fear ... we need to make sure we have enough housing so costs don't go through the roof.

Conlin: "Thanks for the honor of serving as a Council-member." Most of the things the City Council deals with are complicated and take a lot of work ... the Northgate plan was mostly designed by developers ... the City negotiated to get a compromise that worked for the community ... we got many items that improved the neighborhood plan. "I want to complete that job and bring that kind of energy, commitment and results."

## **Second Panel - Candidates for Mayor**

James Donaldson, Joe Mallahan, Michael McGinn, Greg Nickels (not present), Dorli Rainey, Norman Sigler

Q1: What will you do to improve trust, openness and transparency in City government? Do you support creating an open government ombudsman to assist the public with records and open meetings?

James Donaldson: James is an advocate of open government ... background is all about teamwork, and working with best talent that is available ... ombudsman is part of that ... ability to think and have a vision, and think forward to get the best for everybody.

Joe Mallahan: City government is broken and we need a mayor we can trust, who can admit when he has made a mistake ... you are never always right - everyone is going to make mistakes ... earning the trust of people of Seattle will be OK with open government ... ombudsman is part of that ... "My folks taught me the value of integrity and hard work in service to others."

Michael McGinn: He supports an Ombudsman. He was President of community council for many years ... he worked for years to put in some sidewalks ... he did planning to improve Greenwood Ave ... "I still don't know what's happened to that proposal" ... [paraphrasing] "Sometimes, I feel like City government puts a piece of duct tape over the slot to the suggestion box" ... he would like to see government communicate back and forth ... tap into communities to build a better city.

Dorli Rainey: She worked on many issues with many people in the community ... City of Seattle has a serious "mayoral problem" ... she followed the Thornton Creek issue and trees at schools, street maintenance problems ... it is very difficult to walk in Seattle ... we need to change the tone from one of nastiness to one of cooperation, so parks and SDOT don't work against each other.

Norman Sigler: He supports having an ombudsman ... city government should be the most transparent thing we have in our society ... "I think right now our leadership is too siloed" ... we need to work together with communities, neighbors and local districts. "I want a City of Seattle that has passion" ... term limits would go well with the ombudsman ... when you've been in office, ideas are not fresh any more, and you're tied to the interests that got you there.

Q2: What is your plan to reduce youth violence in Seattle and what have you done to date?

Mallahan: He has been a private business-person ... he is disappointed and angry at the job the mayor has done ... we disbanded our gang unit, and recently reconstituted it, but we are way behind the curve .. we should invest in outreach, and community centers ... we ask community centers to raise private funds, then we take City money away.

McGinn: He has talked to a lot of people ... no one has a good answer to what makes a kid think it's OK to shoot a gun out of their car ... we haven't been giving them other choices ... we should look at a program named "Safe, healthy, ready to learn" ... we've gotten away from that ... we took away that network of support that gave them hope ... these are all our kids.

Rainey: She worked with youth groups, and was a guardian ... she knows what homelessness does to children ... we need to promote after school activities, and we need to get counselors into schools instead of police ... children need to have more nourishing and help than we are now providing.

Sigler: He rides the bus and watches the kids and talk to some of them on the street

downtown ... one kid told Norman that he to go back to jail for a warm bed and food ... we need alternatives for them ... early childhood education is effective ... for older kids, we need to make sure the community is involved.

Donaldson: Very few kids are bad kids ... kids are kids, faced with a multitude of choices ... James is involved in kids programs, he is a role model for kids ... James mentioned specifically a reading program in Tacoma ... we should address the problems when they are very very young ... we are still not doing enough ... "Each one reach one; each one teach one."

**Q3: What two specific steps will you take to collaborate with, and improve, Seattle Schools?**

McGinn: ... embrace schools, and focus resources to help schools ... help children after school, and families ... consider steps by the City to take direct responsibilities ... we shouldn't yell at School Board members ... the Mayor should hold himself directly responsible.

Rainey: Schools and City do not communicate at all ... start having a conversation and joint meetings to solve major problems ... facilities should be properly utilized beyond the school day ... conversation with the Educational Association (teachers' union) ... children feel the trouble when their favorite teachers are laid off.

Sigler: Education is a major tenet of his platform ... we need an educational summit, with all stakeholders at the table ... look at public-private partnerships, especially with underutilized schools ... this would be a win-win for everybody.

Donaldson: The City needs to get much more involved ... being around the decision-making table ... multiple uses for facilities ... find a way to keep them open - for example evening classes or recreation centers ... get best usage from the facilities ... support the superintendent.

Mallahan: His child is in Ballard High School. Another of his children was recently accepted to Nathan Hale ... community-based schools is good program ... having police in schools is good thing if the Principal is in favor of it ... we have only four people working on gardening - we have to be doing more of that.

**Q4: How do we catch up on where we should be on our ten year plan to end homelessness?**

Rainey: We need to pass the housing levy ... that will not cover everything, but will get us closer ... we need to look at displacement of low-income housing by development ... this is one of the big problems we face ... We need to start working on that.

Sigler: He supports the housing levy ... he would like to see more transparency so average citizen knows where that money goes ... he would love to see mixed use housing in every development ... the current mayor allows developers to pool credits into single facility where all the low-income housing goes ... reduce the time that people are homeless.

Donaldson: Step number one is passing the housing levy ... homeless will always be amongst us - we need to accommodate them ... several contractors really want to

specialize in affordable housing ... permitting, licensing is too burdensome ... we need the City to be supportive and encouraging, especially for small developers.

Mallahan: He absolutely supports a housing levy, but this levy supports 18 different programs. As mayor he wants to examine programs to be sure they are effective and that they address the problems they are meant to resolve ... Seattle doesn't have enough housing stock ... we need more homes built in the city ... be careful about regulation and fees.

McGinn: He supports the housing levy ... it is important to subsidize units for people who can't afford them ... how do we bring in a mix of new units and make it work? ... we are not engaging communities to make it work .... neighborhoods are prepared to help each other out, but there's so much distrust.

Q5: How does Seattle ensure that the west end of the 520 Evergreen Point Bridge expansion and other projects do not add thousands of additional cars to North Seattle streets and increase air pollution and decrease sustainability?

Given the late hour, this question is posed for information only.

### **Closing statements**

Donaldson: As a team player, I can work with City Council, County Council, and others around the state ... it's about vision, leadership and the ability to inspire people to do what's right ... "I don't need to be right; I just need to do the right thing" ... as a team, we can make it happen and achieve more .... great and wonderful people with great ideas and skills .... "I will create opportunities for all the wonderful people I'll be working with."

Mallahan: He supported a much higher Federal minimum wage ... he was a major donor to Treehouse ... served as a soccer coach ... he has been an Alliance for Education donor, and donor to Democratic candidates. He realizes he has held a low profile ... His web site has testimonials from people who've worked with him.

McGinn: He has been a lifelong Democrat ... he was a community organizer ... two years ago, he was leader in the Sierra Club ... we got light rail back on the ballot alone (separate from funding for more roads) ... we talk about sidewalks and schools but we are spending money on the "hole in the ground" to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

Rainey: She is very independent, and "indiscriminately nasty" to anyone. ... she almost made it to County Council in an earlier race ... she is all for openness and for the ombudsman.

Sigler: He has great information on his web site ... community discussion and videos are there ... also goals and aspirations about what you want in the City of Seattle. He will go and listen to all the communities in the City to see what they want ... that's what is missing now ... We should have a plan for rapid transit, education and the economy.

### **Third panel - candidates for City Attorney:**

Peter Holmes, Tom Carr

**Q1: What should the priorities be for the City Attorney? How do your priorities reflect our Platform?**

Peter Holmes: He is a lifelong Democrat ... regarding priorities, we should make sure we look for active lasting solutions to the city's problems ... Peter is aligned with Democratic party values ... he is dedicated to the public's right to know and to transparent government.

Tom Carr: Public safety is the City Attorney's primary concern ... attendance in the Seattle jail has gone down through programs to keep people out of jail and by working with communities ... Tom has fought the good fight to keep the City Attorney's office open, and to make the record available.

**Q2: Discuss the merits of the Community Courts program and what you would recommend doing with it? Please also discuss if the City should build a jail.**

Carr: We built that program out of nothing. He believes wholeheartedly in this program "It's the way we should do it" ... we should expand the treatment court ... the last thing Seattle should do is build a new jails .... some offenders need to be locked up, and we need a place to do it, and we have a place to do it ... we need to work with the County to keep access.

Holmes: We need to look at the true record of the community court ... only one third complete the program ... recidivism is high even for those who complete the program ... negligible improvement from the program.

**Q3: The City Attorney defends city agencies, including when the agencies deny public records or close a meeting. What will you do to improve trust, openness and transparency in City government?**

Holmes ... commitment to open government ... "I've taken wounds" in the name of open government ... he has worked hard to defend public's right to know ... the City Attorney's office was not much help to him in that fight ... let's make sure their actions match their words ... he was willing to take a stand when it brought down on him the sanction of the mayor and chief of police.

Carr: The City of Seattle has a coordinator for public records ... the ombudsman model is a good one, but you need to get funding ... the commitment to open government is there ... Governor Gregoire chose Tom to chair the "Sunshine Committee" ... the work we do has led to more open government.

**Q4: When state, federal or local agencies take actions that threaten our environment, quality of life or education, should the City Attorney bring independent actions to protect our interests?**

Carr: ... yes, and we have done that with the Duwamish and Lake Union ... we do contest with our partners, but better is to work with them and negotiate a solution, ... "within two weeks, we worked out a solution. That's my style."

Holmes: Certainly we have to work together, but sometimes our agendas will be different ... our City Attorney has not always done so ... we know that in the case of enforcement of low-level misdemeanors, for instance ... it's going to take real

cooperation.

### **Closing statements**

Carr: City's Attorney job is interesting and important ... bringing social services into the court is very important. [paraphrasing:] "I am the City's lawyer. I never take a political position on a civil matter. I have the experience to give that advice to city leaders."

Holmes: Peter has been a lawyer for 25 years ... he decided to move into public service ... he has learned that we have a great police force and a great city .... the City, at the very top, does not follow the values of the citizens .... he seeks change in the City Attorneys office ... he wants to make the office an incubator for real lasting solutions.

### **Good of the order**

A meeting on the 520 bridge replacement will be held June 2 at the Labor Temple.

Heather Trim spoke briefly on Referendum 1 regarding the 20-cent fee for plastic bags at grocery stores. Heather showed a bottle of water from the ocean, containing bits of plastic. The City Council passed this rule, which was challenged by plastic industry.

What about the impact on low-income people? Heather described programs to provide free reusable bags. In Ireland, a similar program reduced use of plastic bags by 90%. Consumers adjusted quickly and businesses were in favor of it, because they didn't need to provide free plastic bags to customers.

Chad encouraged everyone to attend the Mother's March on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.  
Minutes by Stan Sorscher