

46th Democrats
Olympic View Church
August 4th, 2009

Chad Lupkes called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM

Attending: Chad Lupkes, Shanna Sawatzki, Dean Fournier, Javier Valdez, Erica Minshull, Peter Shapiro, Kathryn Lewis, Stan Sorscher, Sarajane Siegfriedt, Jason Sawatzki

Guest: Jan Ames

Minutes: Approved as posted.

Chair's Report: Chad displayed revenues and expenses for the present and proposed budgets. Our constant contact distribution list is growing steadily. About half our Demograms are now distributed by email. We probably want to keep our comps as paper Demograms.

PCO reports: Literature distribution has been going well. Some candidates are calling PCOs to see if they have walked their precincts.

Cole Committee: Jan Ames chairs the Cole Committee. Jan went through a presentation on the recommendations of the committee. Ray Coles' request is unprecedented, and Jan wants to honor Ray's vision, consistent with our values in the 46th District. We have \$60,000 to work with, so far. The committee is about half Ex-Bd members and half other members of the 46th District Democrats. Jan will show the presentation again at the General Meeting.

The funds will be segregated from our operating budget. The committee recommends providing \$10,000 for use in 2010. Going forward, it will be possible for other donors to contribute to the Ray Coles Fund, but only if the district operating budget is in the black.

The committee suggests categories of projects - fundraising; capital projects such as sound equipment; educational or organization-building projects.

Funds will be allocated in accordance with the vision, values and platform of the 46th District Democrats. ... Discussion of the language in the presentation... . The application process should include written controls to avoid conflict of interest.

Applications for Round 1 funding could begins as early as the end of August, 2009. Applications could be reviewed and approved by December. The second round of funding could follow a different schedule. Ideally, we could support projects that come up at any time during the year.

Jan has drafts of the process and application forms, and evaluation score sheets that will document the approval process.

Motion by Kathryn Lewis, seconded by Dean Fournier to approve the proposal. **Motion approved** without objection.

Elections. Chad talked to candidates eligible for endorsement in August, and the consensus is to skip endorsements at the August meeting.

PCOs. The general sense is that PCOs are distributing their literature, although we're not sure if anyone is updating the voter file for bad addresses/people moved etc? Area coordinators had mostly good reports.

Ballot measures. Reminder: we should research any ballot measures in advance of the general meeting.

Kathryn reported that our July summer BBQ was a success, grossing \$822 vs. known expenses of about \$150.

Program Committee: Reminder: with schools closed for the summer, our August General Meeting will be at Olympic View Church, not the school. The program will include a legislative review by our three state legislators, action to approve a report by the Coles Committee, action to approve our proposed Tally Procedures, a report by the Financial Review Committee, and action on two resolutions.

Longer range: Our September General Meeting will include consideration of endorsements of all remaining eligible candidates and ballot issues. For the latter, the King County Elections office will have to be contacted to be sure we've identified all measures that will be on the ballot.

Our October General meeting will include a forum on SR520 plans. In November, an election-night party is likely for the first Tuesday of the month, so our E-Board meeting that month will be on the following day, Wed. (Nov. 4).

LAC: LAC is beginning preparations for the 2010 legislative session but has a more immediate responsibility/need in helping passage of Seattle's Housing Levy renewal.

Finance Committee - Treasurer's Report: Kathryn distributed copies of a month-by-month financial report thru July 31. Excluding funds from the Coles bequest, we've received \$16,749 in income, toward our full-year budgeted total of \$27,348. However, since income from memberships looks like it may turn out to be about \$5000 less than the projected figure reflected in that \$27,348, our 2009 income may top off near \$22,000. But our expenses are currently running about \$3800 under budget, so we need to start thinking about how we might address a possible year-end shortfall of \$1200 or so. One possibility might be to reduce the amount we contribute to political campaigns.

Kathryn is in the early stages of preparing a budget proposal for 2010.

Sarajane suggested that, because the Demogram is, in essence, a membership service, the substantial amount we still spend thereon should, in our financial-outlay pie charts, be reflected under the Membership Committee rather than the E-Board. She disclaimed any intent to affect the categorical breakdowns in our columnar monthly financial reports. Chad pledged to continue discussing this subject "off-line."

Membership Committee: In Betty Mean's absence, we have no new membership figures, so the latest available are July's: 536 members, 62 "Friends," and 41 in the "4600 Club."

Outreach Committee: Peter Shapiro is the new chair of this committee. Our participation in Lake City Pioneer Days was very successful, involving many candidates who stopped by – including actual volunteer help by Bobby Forch and David Bloom.

State Party Report: The State Party's finances are stressed this year. Staff has been reduced to 8. It was suggested that Dwight could submit an application to the Cole Committee, once our Cole Committee's procedures have been approved and put into place. Another possibility might be a joint fund-raiser with the State Party.

Javier reported that WSDCC has proposed an amendment to the State Party Charter, to reduce its required minimum number of meetings from 4 to 3 (per year). Next January's meeting will be in SeaTac, the first in King County in a very long time.

A sticky problem was created when the Thurston County Dem. Chair, without consulting the State Party, gave dozens of candidates access to the Vote Builder database. Under PDC rules, that comprises a contribution to the campaigns of those candidates. So the State Party will necessarily be cracking down harder on controlling access to Vote Builder.

Organizing for America wants to lease some office space from the State Party. Although not much space can be made available, the arrangement might have a slight beneficial effect on State Party finances.

Peter House was quite appreciative of the report summarizing our views on the pluses and minuses of the caucus system and our suggestions for improvement. Chad will forward the report to all E-board members.

King County Dems: It was noted that the KC Dems' finances are also in bad shape, and that they are perhaps even more deserving of support by our loyal Dems. Erica Minshull noted that all of KCDCC's endorsements are posted at KCDems.org, and she reminded us of the KC Dems' upcoming "Democratic Dish" (picnic/party fundraiser) at Carpenters Hall in Renton on Aug. 22, 4 pm to 8 pm. Sarajane offered to coordinate carpooling to the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher and Dean Fournier