

Minutes – February 18, 2009
34th Legislative District Democrats
Executive Board Meetings

7:04 PM Call to Order

Remarks from the Chair

Dow Constantine is now officially in the race for Executive Director. 2009 could be an off-year, already we are looking good with good, homegrown candidates running for variety of offices. Great opportunity for LD to kick into gear in a big way.

Ann Martin requests a point of information regarding the process to replace either Constantine or Larry Phillips should one of them become King County Executive Director. The group is informed by the Chair and Gregg Doss that both candidates are midway through their terms and that the King County Council would appoint a replacement without referendum.

Chair resumes. This Sunday, the Strategic Summit will be held from 1 -5 pm at Southwest Library. This will be a chance to get to know more about the District, including its history, PCO's , revenue and form the objectives for the next 2-year period. Committees will break groups and create tangible goals and cement committees' definitions. Committee chairs will have some homework, Sunday will be 70% of total planning and committees will do the last 30% on their own.

A new ad hoc Recognition Committee has been formed and will create awards for members and on the spot recognition. Kathy Minch will chair this committee.

KDCC discussed the diff between an alternate and a proxy. State level assigns a proxy when a representative cannot be in attendance, but at the county level they use alternates for some positions and proxies for others. KDCC is looking at the bylaws and evaluating proxy vs. alternate process.

Lisa Plymate interjects. She had attended a meeting where this issue was addressed and a decision had been made. KDCC bylaws regarding this, the bylaws are clear and current system needs to maintain, alternates need to stand, and proxy for those positions without alternates assigned.

Chair resumes. The KDCC Affirmative Action Committee will change its name to Cultural Network Committee in an effort to focus on diversity and due to a growing stigma against the term "affirmative action." There is some discussion on this, as Doss points out that the Chair, while in attending this meeting, pointed out to the group that diversity goes beyond cultures and includes LGBT, physically impaired, etc., but they are solely looking at focusing on ethnic group.

Chair has submitted paperwork (missed part of this) to have a Diversity Committee in the 34th District.

Suzy Sherry has offered to do one PCO training directly for the 34th District. Chair offers this to Kimber McCreery, PCO Chair.

7:15

Committee Reports

Bylaws – Brian Earl

Brain has sent around a draft of the Bylaws, but little to no comments have come back. He is looking at putting together a comment portal on the website for the members to comment.

Communications – Beth Grieser

Christi Stapleton is on vacation at this time, she has asked Jeff Upthegrove and Bill Schrier to be on her committee. She is looking forward to Sunday and will be there. “Go 34th!”

Finance – Walter Sive

Chair moves this report to last, due to level of material and information to be covered.

Hospitality – Richard

Due to a Family Emergency, Richard is unavailable. First Vice Chair, Kim Becklund, states that there is a meeting planned between herself, Richard and a catering friend to discuss ideas.

KDCC – Ivan Weiss

He is on the Endorsement Committee chaired by Dean Elder. The 34th has stringent endorsement procedures. However, those might have to change do to the new top two primary and non-partisan elections. They feel that endorsements from democratic people are more important. Nothing is happening yet and KDCC will continue to work on it.

Sive ask why the 34th should concern itself with KDCC’s endorsement process and how this will affect the 34th overall. Weiss explains that the district’s are going to becoming increasingly more important as identifiers for democrats in non-partisan races and the 34th may need to look at which is more important, letting people know this candidate is a democrat or maintaining the current policy. Chair suggests that Weiss work with Bylaws in this area.

LAC – Greg Doss

Legislative Action Day was a success. 19 people from the 34th showed up, which is a lot. Doss gives an overview of the event. One by one the LAC members spoke about their issues and what positions KDCC is taking on them. King County Legislators spoke. Marty Brown (head of OFMs, Deputy Mayor of State) came in and talked about the budget. There is an \$8 Billion short fall. Doss met with all

the representatives for 20 minutes and they talked about all their issues. They were very candid about budget.

Discussion began about LAD. Miki Meahan asked if the legislators were looking at tax increases to fill the budget short falls. Doss explained that there is a lot of talk, but a 2/3 majority is needed or voter approval.

Martin commented that she thought the single most useful thing at the event were the sheets where participants could write messages to the legislators. Plymate suggests implementing this at the business meetings. They could be placed in the back and at the end of the meeting, they could be sent to Olympia.

Doss returns to his report by stating that he will schedule the committee meeting after the Summit on Sunday.

Weiss reports about going to Olympia for the Ferries today, Feb. 18. After the event they dropped off their advocacy for Plan C. Over 100 people made a visible showing. Sen. Joe McDermott spoke. Rep. Sharon Nelson spoke. Rep. Eileen Cody was there, but didn't speak. The road block is in the Senate Transportation Committee. Details of Plan C are available on www.leg.wa.gov.

Membership – Jeff Upthegrove

Upthegrove talks about the initial meeting, which consisted of brainstorming reasons people join the 34th and tools that can be used to reach and retain members. He reiterated his push to coordination with other committees and that this was discussed at the meeting. He will distribute notes and there were some very ambitious ideas.

Newsletter – Jackie Dupras

The deadline is next Tuesday, Feb. 24. There has been a change at the post office they are not open on weekends or after 4:30 for bulk mailing.

Doss asks for a section in the newsletter to advertise committee meeting dates. Dupras states there is one, but she is not getting notification, the ones she does know about get posted. Chair emphasizes that if anyone wants to add content to either the newsletter or the website, they need to make certain they contact Dupras and Schrier personally.

Outreach – Les Treall

Outreach met last night, Feb. 17. Three others showed. The goal for the night was to start a plan of action for the year, but most of the evening was devoted to identifying organizations that the 34th might be interested in working with. A few assigned people to start making contacts.

PCO – Kimber McCreery

McCreery says she is talking to people that are interested in being on her committee. She met with Cherisse Luxe, and she had tons of ideas. Looking at

the map, there are 20 separate regions. In comparison to other districts in King County that is a lot. Artemis (last name?) is on the committee, maybe Luxe. Weiss is doing a good job recruiting PCOs. She is also going to camp out in Olympia with her daughter to get access for both the Chair and herself to vote builder for.

Programs – Beth Grieser

Schrier passes out a calendar. Grieser announces that she has an e-mail address. (The entire Executive Board cheers.) She wants to have a meeting, but not until after Sunday. She thinks it is still wants to do a forum for the Port of Seattle commission and there are two people running for Pat Davis’s position, as well as Lloyd Hera being up for reelection.

Chair comments on the calendar saying that the Executive Board should be more deliberate about getting the membership connected to areas of government they would not normally be connected.

7:49

Finance – Walter Sive

Chair outlines the main goal of Finance which is to get the budget to body by the March Business Meeting. Sive passes out two sets of documents. This first one is a multi-year view of the 34th finances and a preliminary budget for this year. Second doc is the 2009 projection with current.

Sive and Chair request that all “substantive questions” regarding the budget be held until the Summit on Sunday. These documents are the best efforts of the Committee to show the progression of expenses. There have been different software platforms used in the past, and this has made it difficult to track/match spending year to year. Sive notes these are not audited numbers, as that is still underway, and then proceeds to go through the budget line by line answering various informational questions along the way. This budget does not include the sample ballot mailer from the election, because the bill arrived in January. It totaled roughly \$3,000. Sive moves on to the preliminarily projected '09 budget. He speaks specifically about recurring expenses, and added estimates for '09 based on past levels. For example, the memberships are averaging \$35 per person, to calculate the revenue for 2009, he multiplied \$35 by 500 total members, the current number of active members in the 34th. Chair makes the point that we are averaging \$5 more per membership renewal online, after fee is removed, then at the meetings. Sive continues the financial review.

Discussion ensues over the Community Organization line item on the budget. Weiss would like to add more organizations to this list, two mentioned: Gathering of Neighbors and WSBlog. Chair points out that there are no Burien or Vashon organizations on this list. Vashon Food Bank is mentioned as a possible addition. Sive requests that any new organization additions be e-mailed to him and he will bring them to the Summit.

Sive moves on to Elections and notes that this budget does not include spending for election cycle this year. Doss suggests consideration of an amount for Elections, because members are going to want to support Constantine with money.

Discussion moves to fundraising and the Garden Party. It is mentioned by several members that Bruce Stotler will most likely not be involved with the Garden Party this year.

Sive ends his report with the current balance as of January 31, 2009, \$21,697.63

8:20

New Business

Vote Clean Seattle – Rory (last name??)

Vote Clean Seattle is an organization promoting public financing elections in Seattle. They have been working with Marcee Stone and Washington Public Campaigns. They have met with a number of the Seattle City Council members to describe their proposed program that all city elections be held by using public monies. They are working to get it on one of the 2009 ballots. They are raising money and trying to find out if it could be on the primary ballot in June or on the ballot in October. Rep. Jim McDermott is speaking for them at their kick off event. They are working on a schedule for committee hearings.

Their main purpose is to try and secure an endorsement from the 34th, and/or get some financial support as well. They would like to address the membership once they have a ballot spot.

Proposal basics: Program in optional. Potential candidates for city council would have to gather \$10 from 1,000 voters to show they are a serious and viable candidate. Once they have done this, then they are given money public funding for their campaign: \$140,000 for the primary and \$100,000 for the general election. They can no longer raise private funding from this point on. If they are facing another candidate that raises money privately then they would be given matching funds to even the odds.

Questions

Doss: Where do the public funding come from?

Rory: We don't want to compete with libraries and other types of institutions, but there are other funding sources, like cable TV, that we want to be in the measure so voters know [what those funding sources will be].

Schrier: What is the overall cost for this?

Rory: \$2 million, not that much.

Schrier: \$2 million is a good sized number. The City's budget is \$9.9 million.

Chair: When is council making their decision?

Rory: Within the next month or so, October by the end of summer, by April for June ballot.

8:30 Chair ends the question and answer period. Explains the process of getting support to Rory. Rory says he will stay in touch with Marcee, and Chair moves onto new business.

8:33 **March Meeting**

Candidates of multiple offices all 34th. Second Vice Chair, David Ginsberg, wants to announce his candidacy at the March Meeting. Dorsal will also get time. Both are running for Seattle City Council. Constantine is running for King County Executive, and he wants time. Vote Clean Seattle wants time, but might not be ready by this meeting. Finance Committee will also need time to go through the budget presentation.

Chair asks Ginsberg how much time he will need for his candidacy announcement and speech. After some back and forth, Chair decides that The Ginsberg and Dorsal will receive five minutes for speeches, and 10 minutes for questions. Constantine will be given 10 minutes for his speech and 10 minutes for questions. The Finance Committee will be given 20 – 30 minutes.

Discussion ensues about the amount of time the budget is getting and how the budget will be presented to the members so that they clearly understand what is being presented. Ann Martin proposed that Finance be given 10 minutes, but that they should present to the membership using a projector. She uses a past meeting as an example of why this is important. Sive makes some additional suggestions regarding how the budget will be presented, including caveats about the budget on handouts, etc. Chair asks that he also include when the membership will be getting an updated budget presented to them.

Chair then informally reviews the meeting agenda: Ginsberg, Dorsal, Constantine and the Finance Committee. Some on the board question if this is enough for the meeting. They are informed that there are also four resolutions that will need to be presented as well. Miki lists the resolutions for the Executive Board: Re-naming the West Seattle Bridge, No Drug Advertising on Television, Supporting the Employee Free Choice Act and Opposing Internet Voting and SB 5522 and HB 1624. Grieser reminds the Chair that Gayle Thompson is supposed to be scheduled as well. Chair states that due to the campaigns, the meeting will not have time for the Port of Seattle and City Council Meetings this time. Chair closes discussion.

Dow's Campaign – Early Endorse, option for money, chair wants to do both.

Chair opens the floor to discuss how the 34th should handle Constantine's candidacy. McCreery suggests a BIG CHECK for the imagery on the West Seattle

Blog. Weiss explains Constantine's history with the district and importance of and early endorsement. Chair asks whether the Executive Board would like to recommend a dollar amount for the membership to donate to the campaign. Becklund suggests that we might want to suggest this is a "down payment," and more donations may be in the future.

Motion to Endorse with a "down payment" of \$3,434.34. Motion seconded. Chair opens the floor for discussion on the motion. Treall comments that there are a lot of new members that do not know Constantine very well. Weiss suggests Treall contact Jen Houston, Dow's campaign manager with this. Martin suggests putting a bio of Constantine and a list of his contributions to the district in the 34th newsletter. Discussion ends, Chair calls for a vote. Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion returns to the agenda and its flexibility. Chris Porter suggests the presentation be moved the beginning of the meeting if possible. Chair assures that the agenda will be taken care of.

8:57

Jim McDermott's Potato Festival

The Potato Festival is looking for support from the 34th, in the amount of \$150 – \$250. Treall moves to recommend a \$100 donation to the membership, as suggested by Becklund. Motion is seconded. There is no discussion, and the motion passes unanimously.

League of Women Voter's donation.

The deadline to appear in their publication is scheduled too early for the Executive Board to address the donation. After some discussion, the Executive Board decides to recommend a \$200 gift to the League of Women Voters now, and consider another \$200 donation in the fall to avoid missing their deadline. So moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

9:01

Good of the Order

Grieser discusses the Feinstein Challenge. The Feinstein Foundation gives \$1,000,000 to the food banks. For every donation given to White Center food bank, the Feinstein Foundations gives more. She would like the 34th to give to the White Center Food Bank. There is discussion, as the there are other food banks in the district. In the end, Grieser wants to set up a box for donation to all the food banks in the district, this way the members can make their donations directly to the food bank of their choice.

Treall addresses his concerns about fundraising. He reiterates that Stotler is not going to help this year. Chair emphasizes that the Fundraising Committee is a priority, but haven't found anyone for. Upthegrove suggests Justin Tyler. Grieser suggests an advertisement in the newsletter. Upthegrove wants to work closely with the fundraising chair. McCreery suggests Annsely Lattice. She was the lead fundraiser for Gov. Gregoire's campaign.

Plymate speaks about the Seattle City Council's unanimous support for the single payer bills in Congress. Seattle makes the grand total 59 cities and municipalities supporting these measures. Seattle is one of the larger cities.

9:10

Adjourned