

Minutes – June 17, 2009
34th Legislative District Democrats
Executive Board Meeting

7:05 PM Call to Order

Remarks from the Chair

1. Clarification of the role of the Parliamentarian, Stephen, as Parliamentarian, has the last word if gone to for a ruling.
2. Bylaws have an issue with language inconsistency dealing with vote counting. There is discussion to understand the language issues. As a result of this discussion, the Chair decides the Executive Board will not be considering any endorsement recommendations until the bylaws have been fixed.
3. Candidates Forum went very well. West Seattle Blog got some good pictures. Jonathan Fitzgibbon took wonderful pictures for the 34th district. The candidates were impressed. Chair discusses seating at the Port Commission of non-Democrat candidates. There has been some criticism of the forum for this and Chair takes full responsibility. All Executive Board members are invited to a debrief meeting.
4. While the West Seattle Blog had great coverage, some of the comments were from members about district “dirty laundry.” Chair wants people to come to Executive Board with complaints, not to the public.
5. Chair opens the floor for discussion about the Endorsement Meeting preparations. There is an issue of endorsement rules regarding those candidates without a primary race. The bylaws cover this; however, the Executive Board further discusses the matter.
 - a. Ivan Weiss broaches the subject of ballot security. This is reinforced by other Executive Board members. Various security measures are discussed. Ann Martin suggests putting the ballots in a sealed envelope, once counted, with witnesses and stamp across the seal. Then make sure that if it is ever opened, there are multiple witnesses from all sides.
 - b. Organization meeting has not been scheduled yet.

PCO Committee Report (Kimber McCreery)

There will be packets for the PCOs after the meeting and sample ballots will be distributed after they have been printed.

There are issues regarding printing. There is discussion around the printing of the walk lists from vote builder. Target for walk list is being discussed still. Kimber is not talking to the campaigns. Strong Dem, Leaning Dem, Dem, Independent equals 190

doors. (Additional numbers from Kimber.) Kimber runs through the numbers of who is registered to vote and who is likely to vote. Chair wants the target to be down to independents. Weiss discusses Vashon's contribution to the voter margin. There is discussion regarding PCO involvement, then moves to voter information about voting trends. Mail-in ballot will be sent out July 18-19. Discussion changes to Dow's race. Again discussion turns to PCO involvement. Training will be provided in written form. We have 167 PCOs to date.

There is a question regarding phone banking, and precincts without a PCO. There is discussion as to whether the Board can commit to phone banking as the Board is stretched thin already. The campaigns are probably going to be doing their own phone banking. Kim Becklund offers an idea to have a list of contact info of all endorsed candidates so that members can volunteer for phone banking. This will be posted to the website and it is suggested that we do a bulk e-mail. All agree to this.

Weiss asks who is going to be the liaison with the candidates. Chair will be the liaison once the endorsements have been made. He has been talking to all campaigns on a regular basis.

Conclusion: The plan is July 10 - 11 the packets will be delivered to the PCOs. There will be an in person training before the Endorsement Meeting and PCOs will be asked to distribute sample ballots July 18-19.

Garden Party (Chris Porter)

Food quote will be bid out shortly. The theme for the party is Brazilian. New York Vinnie may be the MC for the Garden Party, if not, then Rachael Glass. Porter is working on high stake donors. Committee members are working on the donor list as a whole. The Garden Party will be August 14 at West Seattle Nursery. Beth Grieser will work on decorations. Richard Bartlett will work on sound. Porter will have internet access. Chair states that we need multiple laptops available for credit card processing. Advertising will appear on AM1090 via a PSA, West Seattle Herald, West Seattle Blog, KCDCC, B-Town Blog and through other LDs. Weiss and Stapleton will put together a donor letter. June 30 is the next meeting at Uptown Espresso in the Junction.

Who is organizing volunteers? There will be a decision at the June 30 meeting. Martin volunteers. Chair warns that at least 20 – 30 volunteers needed for the event.

Outreach (Les Treall)

A schedule for all the volunteers and leads for the Burien festival is being put together. Treall will e-mail that out tomorrow morning.

Hospitality House has not gotten back to them about the microwave. They do not seem to want it. Treall contacted some churches to see if anyone wants volunteers. No one seems to be interested. There are just not volunteers really wanting to be

involved. This is determined to be an “Obama-hangover” after some discussion. There will be a presence at the High Point Diversity Festival, including Dorsal and others on July 4.

There is an issue of conflict regarding candidates at the 34th table at Highline and Burien events before the endorsement meeting. There is a number of concerns voiced. Conclusion: Only literature allowed at the tables: Dow Constantine, 34th district information and endorsement meeting advertisement. Candidates must distribute their literature outside of the table area.

There is a clothing bank that needs volunteers called New Futures. Chair volunteers to attend. Jubilee Days is on July 18 – 19. A board member needs to cover every shift of this event.

8:24 King County Update

Tuesday is the endorsement committee meeting. Weiss is on the committee. Plymate will be there on Tuesday for endorsement committee. There will be several races where there will be no recommendation or no ability to agree on a candidate.

Question: Does an endorsement out of the committee reduce the voting threshold?

The answer is no, it is not in the bylaws. What the committee recommends will probably not carry much weight, according to Weiss. Only District Chairs and the Committee and Officers get to vote at the KCDCC endorsement meeting.

8:28 Martin has just been appointed the chair of the multicultural committee KCDCC. She is asking for board members to let her know if they know people that want to get involved.

8:30 New Business

Members List

Mayor Nickels and Max Vekich have asked for the list. Treall moves to offer the list together. Weiss seconds. No discussion. Voted unanimous 12 for, 0 against.

Picnic

Bruce Stolter wants to know when the annual picnic will be held. Bartlett is taking care of the arrangements. July 15th will work fine for a date, and he will call tomorrow. This will replace the Executive Board meeting. Chair opens the floor for discussion. Porter wants the Executive Board meeting on the 15th. Stapleton points out that this might be in conflict with the PCO push. Chair states that this has not been an issue in the past. There will be PCO packets at the picnic. Chair states there should be no reason that they do not already have packets. No speeches will be allowed at the picnic, but candidates will be invited. July 15th is first choice, and 22nd is the alternate.

Tent City

There is an encampment in our district. The legislators sent a great letter to the governor regarding this. There has been a request for us to help. Cherisse Luxa found out what they need most is bottled water, ice, batteries and spare tents. Treall would like the district to get the bottled water. Treall moves to pull \$50 from outreach to buy bottled water for tent City. It is seconded by Bartlett. Miki Meahan discusses how much water \$50 will actually buy at the store. Greg offers an amendment to the motion to not take the money from Outreach but pass the hat at the membership meeting. Weiss seconds this. Chair speaks against the amendment; July 8 may be too late to pass the hat. They need these services now. Jeff Upthegrove believes we need to get the services to the people. Weiss agrees and thinks it should be help first and politics second. There is a point of clarification, if we are going to do something at the July 8 meeting, are the people still in our district? (While this discussion takes place, Doss has started an envelope around the Executive Board. The Executive Board personally donates \$225 to help the encampment.) Bill Schrier asks what the purpose is of this organization if not to help solve people's problems. Everyone cheers Schrier! Stapleton supports the amendment, and also wants to continue to support calling the encampment "Tent City." Upthegrove thinks this is about more than just delivering water. The residents have asked that the encampment be called "Nickelsville." This is happening in our district, it does relate to the incumbent mayor. Chair clarifies that this is not supported by the district, as it has not been presented to the membership and voted on by the membership. Stephen Lamphear states his opinion that in the bylaws, we cannot give to outside organizations. Bartlett wants Treall to retract his motion, as the Board has already gotten more money than proposed. Amendment made to not give money through Outreach but raise additional funds by passing a hat at the members meeting. Vote for 11, against 4. Amendment passes. Vote for 11, against 2. Motion passes. A "hat" will be passed at the endorsement meeting to raise money for bottled water for the encampment residents.

8:55 Grieser notes that the picnic on July 22 has conflicts. Grieser offers the July 29 as the alternative date.

8:56 **Good of the Order**

Marcee Stone thanks everyone that came to the WPCA meeting. They raised almost \$20,000.

Weiss states that he has no issue with calling the encampment Nickelsville. Chair asks that topics be kept to Good of the Order and away from older debates.

Marty is introduced and she invites everyone to a dance party at the Common House July 11, 7:30 – 11. There will be a mini-dance lesson at 7:30pm.

Porter requests volunteers for the June 28 Gay Pride parade at 11:30am at 4th and Union.

Becklund is hosting a wine and garden party on June 30. She is raising money for the Strength and Place Initiative, DNDA, 5:30pm at Becklund's house.

Marcee Stone states that Max Vekich is running for Port Commissioner. He and Marcee committed to do a fundraiser for Dow Constantine on July 26, if anyone is interested in working on that, please contact her. It is Sunday at Common House. Treall volunteers. Marcee wants to know if we want to turn it into a 34th event. The event is from 4 – 6 pm.

Schrier wants to be included in all contact Executive Board info. Upthegrove asks to have e-mails sent to him for corrections.

9:05 Adjourned.