

**34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats  
Executive Board Meeting  
Wednesday, December 16, 2009 – Puget Ridge Co-Housing**

*Attendees: Tim Nuse (Chair), Stu Yarfitz (Treasurer), Michael Taylor-Judd (Secretary), Marcee Stone (State Committeewoman), Walter Sive (Finance Chair), Les Treall (Outreach Chair), Kim Becklund (First Vice Chair), Ivan Weiss (King County Committeeman), Dorsol Plants (King County Committeeman Alternate), Greg Doss (Legislative Action Chair), Kimber McCreery (PCO Chair), Jeff Upthegrove (Membership Chair), Jackie Dupras (Newsletter Editor), Lisa Plymate (King County Committeewoman), Tara Jo Heinecke (Diversity Chair), Justin Anderson (Communications Chair), and Brian Earl (Bylaws Chair)*

*Guests: Joe Fitzgibbons, Leslie Harris, Ann Martin, Kathy Minsch, Sabra Schneider, and Linh Thai*

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Tim, at 7:01pm.

Lisa Plymate lit the Hanukkah Menorah candles. Stu Yarfitz joined her in reciting the blessings.

Tim offered a few remarks on the success of the Holiday Party with special thanks to Richard Bartlett, Kim Becklund, and Marcee Stone. He discussed the passing of active member Cheriss Luxa after a battle with stomach cancer.

He also commented on [the King County Council's failure to appoint a replacement for Dow Constantine in our 8<sup>th</sup> District seat](#) and details of what took place at the King County Council meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Next, Tim tabled his last comments to cede the floor to special guest Linh Thai and Young Tran, the new President of the Vietnamese Community Organization.

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was tabled, as the Secretary was running late to the meeting.

*Linh Thai – Vietnamese community support* – Linh provided the Board with a history of political support from the Vietnamese community traditionally going strongly in favor of Republicans. He believes this could be flipped if we support the South Vietnamese flag as their community symbol. Good discussion on organizing the Vietnamese community ensued.

*Kimber and Michael entered the meeting at 7:42pm.*

*Membership Drive* – Before proceeding, Tim reminded Executive Board members that negative comments about our business and our members on blogs is neither good for teamwork nor support for the good work we are trying to complete in our district.

Walter began a discussion of our membership drive for the New Year by reporting that the average contribution by members towards dues is \$24, followed by a review of estimated revenues and expenses for next year based on our recent history of activities.

Jackie also stated that she had reviewed membership fees elsewhere and we have the second lowest in the area.

Tim said that we are raising about \$10 less than our activity per member, which is covered by the annual Garden Party fundraiser and other one-time donations. Simply raising the base rate to \$34 would theoretically make up

the difference, allowing for fundraising to be used to expand activities, but this would more than double our current base rate.

One recommendation is that we communicate better with the general membership, asking those who can to increase a membership level, informing them what the actual average cost per member is, and/or make a second pitch during the year for additional membership pledges.

Another recommendation is that we look into other credit/debit card options. Some other organizations have had more success with signing up members who make multiple, smaller donations on a monthly basis – \$5 or \$10 a month instead of \$25 or \$30 per year – which makes it easier for some folks to join and perhaps encouraging existing members to donate more across an entire year. Jeff looked into options on rates and provided some examples of how credit card fees might impact revenues under such a change (*attached*).

Discussion followed on the impacts some of these changes could have on low income and unemployed members and the unintended labeling of category/level divisions such as “Seniors” or “Living Lightly.”

**Greg moved to implement a debit/credit card system which allows for a monthly donation level to be available, in addition to current member levels. Kimber seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with 17-Yes.**

After some further discussion, **Brian moved to raise the base membership level from \$15 to \$25**, mentioning that the District has not raised dues in at least 10 years. **Ivan seconded the motion, which failed 7-Yes and 10-No** after some spirited debate, particularly from guests in attendance. Some expressed pride in having the lowest dues in the county because this signals our desire to allow better access to all members. Others urged the Board to pledge to ask all who can to contribute at a higher level.

**Michael then moved to add a \$34 “Sustaining Rate” in replacement of the current \$25 membership level on the membership form. Tim seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with 17-Yes.**

*New Business – January Meeting* – Tim led a planning discussion for next month’s membership meeting. We should continue our emphasis on education by inviting a Highline School District Board Member and representatives from the League of Education Voters and/or the teacher’s union to talk about key issues as we enter the 2010 legislative session and school levies come up for renewal on the February ballot.

Other ideas for the meeting in February included inviting the two new Seattle City Council members, Sally Bagshaw and Mike O’Brien, to speak to the membership.

*New Business – KCDCC Donation* – Tim reported that Suzie Sheary, King County Democrats Chair, had put out a call for new annual donations from District Democrat organizations. At the start of this year our LD pledged \$2,034, plus we made an additional \$500 donation later to help with the County organization’s budget.

Ivan pointed out that our pledge is a strong challenge to the other LD’s, although few met that challenge this year. He reminded us of the hard work that Suzie carries out and the KCDCC’s strong support of our District.

**Tim moved to pledge \$2,034 for 2010, with an initial payment of \$1,000 to be made in January. The motion was seconded by Brian, and passed 16-Yes with 1 Abstention.**

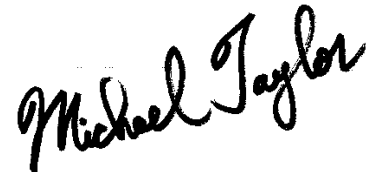
*New Business – Resolution regarding Adam Eisenberg – Tim introduced a resolution ([attached](#)) on behalf of himself and Tom Carr respectfully recommending that the Governor appoint Adam Eisenberg to the King County Superior Court vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable George Mattson. The Executive Board voted unanimously to send the resolution on to the membership.*

*Good of the Order – Joe McDermott has asked us to stay strong and positive in our messaging about the vacant County Council seat.*

Les raised additional new business, calling for the creation of an ad hoc Forum Committee to prepare for the possibility of vetting candidates for a vacant legislative seat in the District. After some discussion, it was agreed that some members could meet informally, but it would be best not to take any formal action until we know the outcome of filling the vacancy for County Council.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34pm.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Taylor-Judd, Secretary