

Minutes of the 34th District Democrats Board Meeting

February 15, 2023, held virtually on Zoom.

Attendees:

Graham Murphy, Rachel Glass, Jordan Crawley, Roxanne Thayer, Chris Porter, Bunny Hatcher, Ted Barker, Preston Anderson, Julie Whitaker, Steve Butts, Carla Rogers, Ann Martin, Lauri Hennessy, Dorothy Gesick, Gina Topp

7:05 pm – Call to Order by Chair Graham Murphy

- Agenda reviewed and approved by unanimous consent.
- Minutes from January meeting approved by unanimous consent.
- Reminder of the Code of Conduct given by the Chair
 - Communications Chair Carla Rogers added that she would like to establish rules of decorum for our communication platforms, to be developed prior to our spring endorsements.

Chair's Announcements

- In-person vs. virtual meetings
 - Based on a poll of members, we will meet in person once a quarter starting 2nd Quarter; 2 meetings and one Holiday gathering for 2023 if budget allows.
 - Hybrid meetings are not feasible.
- Pop-Up Social for February 24 will be at The Beverage Place.
- Membership roster postings to be sped up assure timely verification.
 - Carla will work with Gina for a plan to contact previous members for renewal.
- A pre-meeting program for March will be on behavioral health issues to complement the KC April 25 Levy Proposition 1 for Behavioral Health Centers.
- Chair requested names as potential chairs for unfilled committees.

State Committee Report

- Roxanne Thayer attended meetings of the Woman's Caucus, Progressive Caucus, and the Environmental and Climate Caucus
- Chris Porter noted that representatives for all 10 CDs have been elected, State Senator Javier Valdez has been appointed to a DNC standing committee, and State Chair Shasti Conrad could become Chair of the Association of State Democratic Chairs, Western Region.

King County Democratic Central Committee Report from January. Ted Barker and Bunny Hatcher:

- Bunny and Ted are on the Endorsement Committee.
 - The Endorsement Committee has started to meet. They have settled on the races to endorse in.
 - Bunny is on the KC Democrats Candidate Questionnaire Subcommittee, judicial and school board candidates in particular.
- Chair Carrie Barnes reiterated the role of the committee persons as liaisons for their LDs.
- KC LAC Committee is re-starting after a hiatus of several years.
- KCDCC Committee chairs were announced.

- A call has been put out for election observers.
- Chris Porter spoke to his KCD Board candidacy.

Legislative Action Committee, Jordan Crawley

- Jordan and Carla put together a Platform and LAC page on the website which includes:
 - Links to follow bills as they move forward, with lookups by bill number, category, and a 34th bill tracker.
 - Action and education Links.
 - Profiles of our representatives.

<https://34dems.org/activate-your-activism/>

- Jordan will be meeting with the Membership Policy Caucuses and working on Platform revision.
- Weekly Email updates will go out to members during the Session, then monthly throughout the remainder of the year.

Fundraising and Events, Lauri Hennessey

- Initial planning is underway for possible events.
 - A June event to coincide with Pride Month was mentioned, however an event later in July is favored, as attendance is thought to be greater.
 - A bowling party in recognition of Joe McDermott’s retirement from the KC Council.
 - Lauri is looking for volunteers to plan and help at events.

2023 Budget Development, Graham Murphy

- A budget work group is underway with Graham, Carla, and Treasurer Julie Whitaker.
 - It is hoped that \$25K can be made from fundraising events and \$15K from member donations.
 - Donations to candidates in 2023 to be \$5.5K.

Resolution in Support of a Washington Tax on Extreme Wealth

A resolution based on work being done in the legislature was submitted by Ann Martin. It was approved unanimously by the board to be presented in March to the membership with a “recommendation to adopt”.

Endorsements

The Resolutions and Endorsement Committee has met to begin the discussion of plans for forums and endorsements procedures.

- Forums are under consideration for Seattle Council District 1, and King County District 8.
- The 34th would seek to partner with the 33rd LD to hold forums for Burien City Council races; also, possibly with other LDs for Seattle Council races in D2, D3, and D7.
- To hold virtual or in-person forums is to be determined.

Bylaws, Rules, and Code of Conduct, Jordan Crawley

Jordan is reviewing our governing documents and will be making suggestions to the Board for approval to place before the membership for adoption. Jordan's presentation started at this meeting and will continue at the March board meeting due to its length.

The goals are to:

- Consolidate to reduce unnecessary redundancies.
- Reorganize sections to create a more natural flow.
- Revise according to needs or suggestions.

Affected documents will be:

- Standing Rules for the Executive Board
- Standing Rules for Remote Participation
- Code of Conduct
- Bylaws

Good of the Order

Carla Rogers noted that the Burien City Council is looking for participation at an upcoming meeting in support of renter protections which are being put into motion to be repealed.

Ann Martin announced that the next meeting of the West Seattle Democratic Women was to feature a presentation on the Washington State Capital Gains Tax.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.