

Minutes of the 34th District Democrats Board Meeting

August 16, 2023, held virtually on Zoom.

Attendees:

Graham Murphy, Rachel Glass, Jordan Crawley, Ted Barker, Roxanne Thayer, Bunny Hatcher, Chris Porter, Preston Anderson, Julie Whitaker, Steve Butts, Carla Rogers, Dorothy Gesick, and Hannah Cameron.

7:04 pm – Call to Order by Chair Graham Murphy

- The agenda was reviewed and approved by unanimous consent.
- Minutes from the June board meeting were presented and were approved by unanimous consent.

Resolution on Ranked Choice Voting

- A Resolution to use Ranked Choice Voting in the 2028 Presidential Primary had been submitted by Ann Martin.
- In his role as a State Committeeperson, Ted Barker summarized the resolution. The DNC is in favor of RCV, and the State Party wants to move forward with this method of delegate selection.
- Ted expressed concerns about the process, and referred to the 2022 Congressional Election in Alaska, often used as an example of a positive RCV outcome. He noted that the election of Democratic Rep. Mary Peltola was a fluke, due to GOP intra-party quarreling. Other members expressed worries that RCV would be confusing to voters and lead to lower turnout. Two members rose in support of the resolution.
- Bunny Hatcher moved to submit the resolution to membership for consideration without a board recommendation. Carla Rogers seconded the motion. The motion was approved via a Zoom “Thumbs Up” by a majority vote.

Endorsement Process Review

- Chair Murphy said he was pleased with the way the June and August endorsement meetings went. He expressed gratitude to those who worked behind the scenes to ensure that voting went smoothly, given that Zoom changes after the June meeting required on-the-fly adjustments at the August meeting.
- A post-endorsement development has caused several members of the 34th to inquire about rescinding our endorsement in the Seattle City Council D1 race. Graham stated that any reconsideration would be inappropriate and would jeopardize the credibility of our endorsements.
- Carla Rogers suggested we write a statement regarding our endorsement methods and reference the specific bylaws section that deals with our process for reconsideration.
- Board members should be acquainted with our Bylaws to effectively answer questions regarding our endorsements.

State Party Update

- State Committeeperson Roxanne Thayer told us that there will be a meeting of the State Party in Spokane at the end of September, the details are to be determined. Currently there is little activity as people are away for the summer.

KCDCC Report for July

- Bunny Hatcher had previously provided a report from the July KCDCC meeting. It was published in the August newsletter.
- Chris Porter expressed displeasure over some of the recent KCDCC endorsements. He feels that they don't always pick the best Democrats and are using the rules and bylaws to put forward certain candidates that lack Democratic core values.
- Bunny is one of 12 county Democrats working on the Endorsements Committee. She said that there should be more participation. LDs are allowed to send up to 4 members to serve on the committee, but they do not. Some LDs are not represented at all.

2023 Fundraiser

- Graham reported that we raised about \$7,000 at our July 22nd fundraiser. That positions us down approximately \$800 year-to-date compared with 2022 at this time.
- Chris felt that we should resume holding a silent auction next year.
- Hannah Cameron suggested that holding the fundraiser prior to the endorsement meeting, we may attract more candidates.
- Graham said that we have another opportunity to gain contributions at our September 9th picnic.

Outreach and Visibility Activities

- Steve Butts announced that the South Park Fiestas Patrias Parade has returned. It will be on Saturday September 16th, 11am- 12:30.
- The B-Town Fiesta will be on Saturday September 23rd. It will be a joint effort with the 33rd LD.
- Due to the Fiestas Patrias Parade, Our Adopt-A-Street work party has been moved to Saturday, September 30th.

Candidate Donations

- We have \$825 remaining in the 2023/2024 budget for campaign contributions.
- Carla Rogers spoke to the fact that the Highline Schoolboard elections had attracted far rightwing attention. A candidate supported by "Moms for Liberty" did well in the Primary against our endorsee Carlos Ruiz. She felt our excess resources should be directed there.
- Hannah Cameron made a motion to split the funds between the two Highline races:
 - \$500 to Carlos Ruiz, District 4.
 - \$325 to Stephanie Tidholm, District 1.
 - Dorothy Gesick seconded the motion.
- Carla Rogers made a motion to amend:
 - \$500 to Carlos Ruiz.
 - \$325 to the Seattle Housing Levy.
 - Chris Porter seconded.
- The amended motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

General Election Canvassing Plan

- Carla has been working on setting up two canvassing events jointly sponsored by the 34th and King County Council District 8 Candidate Teresa Mosqueda.
- The first event would be in Burien on October 7th
- The second would be the distribution point for 34th PCO packets on October 21.
- Carla will be granted time at our September meeting to present the plan to members.

Precinct Leadership Committee

- Graham announced that Dorothy Gesick would be stepping down from chairing the committee.
- Dorothy spoke about her frustration about the participation of PCOs during the Primary. Out of 66 PCOs, only 13 canvassed using the MiniVAN app which PCOs are to be using. While some PCOs could have canvassed or phoned without the app, Dorothy felt that the amount of time and effort she put into contacting PCOs and providing walk lists was not constructive. She felt that her energy could be better utilized in doing other things, especially during the Presidential Election in 2024.
- Graham was to confer with former PCO Committee Chair Nick Bonazza about helping for the remainder of the year.

Good of the Order

- Chris Porter rose to ask veteran board members to allow new members the opportunity to freely express themselves without interjecting potentially negative feedback, so as to encourage contributions from younger members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM