

Minutes of the 34th District Democrats Board Meeting

November 15, 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, Ann Martin, Gina Topp, Hannah Cameron, and Rebecca Rego.

7:07 pm – Call to Order by Chair Graham Murphy

- Graham noted that the meeting would be the last for the year.
- The agenda was amended and approved without objection. Additions included:
 - Ted Barker has information from House Our Neighbors about an initiative in 2024 to provide ongoing funding for the Seattle Affordable Housing Initiative that was passed in February.
 - Roxanne Thayer asked to include discussion of signing onto calls for a cease fire in Gaza.
 - Ann Martin wished to share a State Party advisory on resolutions
- Minutes from the October Board meeting were presented and were approved without objection.

December Service Project – Rachel Glass

- Rachel stated that plans for the project were proceeding well. She asked that board members bring concerns with her first before taking them out to others.
- The event will be held on Saturday December 16, 10am to 4pm, at The Blu Grouse in White Center for the benefit of Childhaven.
 - Rachel will set up a shift schedule, so people need not spend the whole time at the event.
 - We will serve a meal for no more than 100 individuals, or approximately 30 families with children.
 - We will provide winter clothing items as gifts to the children, Rachel will obtain age and size information.
- A Google Form has been developed for volunteer sign-ups.
 - Hannah Cameron will work with Rachel to determine best ways to solicit volunteers and donations from members and electeds.
 - The deadline of December 12 was established for obtaining clothing, food, and other commitments.
 - Volunteers are needed to provide gathering places for donations.

Suggested KC Democrats Endorsement Rule Change Letter – Chris Porter

Chris explained the issue, answered questions, and moderated discussion regarding a letter that has been drafted and put forth for amending. KCD has requested that we submit our letter by the end of November.

- At issue is the problem that in 2015 and in 2023 King County Democrats endorsed a candidate for Seattle City Council District 1 other than our endorsee. According to its current rules, KCD can do so since a fraction of District 1 falls outside of the boundaries of the 34th LD.

- We suggest that the KCD accept endorsements from any LD in jurisdictions that fall almost entirely within that LD's boundaries; we suggest 95 percent of the jurisdiction's precincts to be the rule.
- Hannah Cameron suggested that using voter counts rather than precincts as the determining factor would be more equitable, but following discussion, the consensus was that precinct counts are more stable from year to year.
- It was noted by Jordan Crawley that this rule change would not preclude any other LD from endorsing in a race if the jurisdiction overlapped into another LD regardless of the proportional percentage – Only the KC Democrats would be affected by this rule change.
- Hannah moved to submit the letter; Ted Barker seconded. The motion was passed unanimously via a voice vote.

State Party – Ted Barker and Roxanne Thayer

- Report from the last State Party meeting is in the October Newsletter.
- Ted took part in a training session on resolutions written by Local Party Organizations. Ann Martin has reviewed the document with the State's revisions and described some of the updates:
 - Language is to be standardized.
 - Resolutions will be saved for 3 years, then reviewed. Those no longer relevant will be archived; others may be rewritten to remain current.
 - Ann was to provide a copy of the revised process.
- Roxane noted the tenacity of the proponents of Small Modular Reactors in promoting their preference over other sources of carbon neutral power generation.

2024 Membership – Hannah Cameron

- Hannah asked if we set goals for membership each year. We were asked to contact her with suggestions for increasing membership.
- Chris Porter noted that membership numbers can swing widely as potential endorsees bring their supporters to join, who usually don't renew. Our goal should be to cultivate "Sustaining" members who renew year after year.

Seattle Social Housing Development Authority – Ted Barker

- Ted attended a meeting with House Our Neighbors, the group that sponsored the Seattle initiative I-135 in February.
- The authority is in the process of being set up. The city was to supply startup money for 18 months, but it won't be able to do so until January 2024.
- A new initiative is being planned for the 2024 General Election to establish a long-term funding source.
 - The proposal is to levy a tax on Seattle-based employers on those employees who make over \$1 million a year. The group estimates that \$10 to \$20 million would be raised per year. Any unspent money would go to the City's general fund.
 - They will use paid signature gatherers.
 - They will be seeking our endorsement.

Israeli/Palestinian Ceasefire Resolution – Roxanne Thayer

- Roxanne brought forward a ceasefire resolution drawn up by faith leaders, elected officials, community leaders, and other citizens of Washington State that seeks others to sign onto. <https://sites.google.com/view/solidarity-statement/individual-sign-on>
- Roxanne proposed that the 34th also issue a resolution. Discussion took place over whether the board could issue a statement by itself. It was determined we would need to send it to membership for approval.
- Roxanne, Ann Martin, and Preston Anderson will compose a resolution to be presented to the membership.

Good of the Order

- Ann Martin said that there were a couple of slots available for the West Seattle Democratic Women's November meeting featuring King County Prosecutor Leesa Manion.
- Bunny Hatcher lamented over the continuing lapses in the Vashon Island ferry schedule. The initials "WTF" has come to stand for "Where's the ferry" among islanders.
- Hannah Cameron thanked Chris Porter for the awards presentations. She enjoys the honey that he provided as one of the gift options.
- Chair Murphy thanked the board for their services throughout the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM