

Minutes of the 34th District Democrats Board Meeting

January 17, 2024, 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, Ann Martin, and Hannah Cameron.

7:09 pm – Call to Order by Chair Graham Murphy

- Ann Martin moved to adopt the meeting agenda which was approved without objection.
- Minutes from November Board meeting were presented and were approved without objection.

State Party Report – Ted Barker and Roxanne Thayer

- Ted informed us that the next State Party Meeting was to be the last weekend in January in Bellingham.

King County Democrats – Bunny Hatcher and Chris Porter

- Bunny is working with the Endorsements Committee to help draft the various candidate questionnaires for the 2024 state and federal elections. They should be ready for candidates to fill out in early March.
- LDs with single jurisdiction races are free to endorse before the questionnaires are ready; KC Democrats will not endorse in those races.
- KC Democrats will not begin to endorse candidates until after Candidate Filing Week, which ends on Friday May 10.
- Chris is working on the Questionnaire for Superintendent of Public Lands.

Schedule Review for 2024 – Graham Murphy

- Chair Murphy presented the schedule for the year and shared the link to the tabbed spreadsheet. It includes deadlines for actions relating to the State Convention, endorsements, meeting dates, etc. Outreach events will be added as the information becomes available.
- Hannah Cameron will pin a link to the schedule in the Executive Channel on Slack.
- Miscellaneous 2024 Items and Events Discussed:
 - We can have 3 members serve as State Convention Standing Committee Members, to be selected at the February meeting.
 - The State Party will send ballots to members for selecting delegates to the State Convention.
 - Rachel Glass will recruit for a diverse group of potential State Convention delegates.
 - Jordan Crawley is updating our platform for 2024 for the March meeting.
 - There is no information regarding a County Convention currently.

- The budget for 2024/2025 will be given to members to approve in April for a May 1 start date. Julie Whitaker, Graham, Hannah, Carla Rogers, and Ted Barker have so far volunteered to help.
- The Annual Fundraiser will be on May 31st. To date Sara Smith has volunteered to help along with Graham, Roxanne Thayer, and Chris Porter who will work on a silent auction.
- Primary endorsements will be done at the June 12th meeting. May 10th is the last day for candidates and PCOs to file.
- Nick Bonazza is working on recruiting PCOs. Additionally, the MLK Labor Council is interested in filling some PCO positions.

Endorsements

- The Endorsements Committee will begin to meet regularly.
- The committee will put together a candidate block.
- Chris rose to state he felt that during the January endorsements the board failed to act as a group, nor did they inform each other about their positions on the candidates. There was general discussion about the expectations of board members during endorsements given differences of viewpoints.

Resolutions – Ann Martin

- Ann presented 2 resolutions in line with bills currently being debated in the legislature.
 - In support of expanding access to community solar power in Washington State.
 - In support of legislation to reduce solid waste and the recycling and reuse of products in the state.
- Carla pointed out that our platform gives our positions on these issues, and that the resolutions may be redundant.
- Jordan Crawley additionally pointed out that our Policy Caucuses, particularly the Environment, Energy and Land Caucus on these topics, have the power to issue statements in support of legislation regarding issues under their purview on behalf of our organization.
- Hannah Cameron moved to refer both resolutions to the EELU Policy Caucus to convey their support for the legislation in our name. If they choose not to, then we would submit the resolutions to membership for adoption. Bunny seconded the motion, which was passed via a voice vote. Ann will contact the caucus leads, Randy Litzenberger and Annie Phillips.

Bylaws and Rules Changes – Jordan Crawley

- Jordan had previously sent to board members his suggestions for updates to our Bylaws and Rules and Code of Conduct documents for review.
- Carla suggested, given time constraints, that there be a separate session with those interested sharing their opinions about the changes.
- Jordan will establish a meeting time in February to discuss the functional changes. Board members can contact him with their concerns beforehand.

Issues in Burien

Carla brought forward 2 ongoing issues in Burien

- Burien Homeless Shelter
 - Former Councilmember Cydney Moore is managing a shelter for those unhoused people uprooted by the Burien sweeps. It is located at the Oasis Church.
 - Carla would like to ask members for donations of clothing and other items at our February meeting.
 - She will work out more details.
 - Bunny volunteered to be a gathering point for donations on Vashon.
- Burien Minimum Wage
 - Carla noted that with the new conservative council members will be unlikely to move forward on this issue.
 - She has been in contact with the Transit Riders Union to draft a ballot initiative for November. A signature gathering campaign would start in March and go through June. She said 8,000 signatures would be sufficient to get it on the ballot.
 - She will promote this to members and PCOs.

Other Items

- Role of Parliamentarian.
 - Graham noted that the Seattle School Board often has meetings on Wednesdays. Jordan will act as a stand-in for Parliamentarian as needed for newly elected Director Gina Topp who remains on the Executive Board and will attend meetings as she is able. Jordan would also serve as Sergeant-at-Arms.
- Website problem.
 - The website had been down for several days due to administrative issues with the hosting site. Carla is working to resolve them.

Good of the Order

- Hannah would like to do a membership drive in February. Those who become members or renew would be given a chance to win a gift basket. She is seeking suggestions for things to include in it.
- Ted said that Rep. Pramila Jayapal recently toured the West Seattle Food Bank and was interested in its procedures. Ted found the Congresswoman very engaging, knowledgeable, and informative.
- Chris Porter gave instructions on how to access the ballot for the King Conservation District Supervisor Election that would end on February 13th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM