

Minutes of the 34th District Democrats Board Meeting

July 17, 2024, held virtually on Zoom.

Attendees:

Rachel Glass, Jordan Crawley, Ted Barker, Bunny Hatcher, Chris Porter, Jules Williams, Julie Whitaker, Steve Butts, Carla Rogers, Ann Martin, Gina Topp, Hannah Cameron, and Rebecca Rego

7:07 pm – Call to Order by 1st Vice Chair Rachel Glass

- The meeting agenda was shown. Hannah Cameron moved to adopt; Ted Barker seconded. The agenda was adopted via a voice vote.
- Minutes from the May board meeting were presented. Julie Whitaker moved to approve; Jules Williams seconded. The minutes were approved via a voice vote.

Resolutions – Ted Barker and Ann Martin, speaking for the Endorsements & Resolutions Committee

Ted presented a series of resolutions for consideration by the board. A link was shared to a Google spreadsheet with links to all resolutions.

- **A Resolution in Support of the City of Seattle Development of Low Income Housing on Surplus Fort Lawton Land**
 - Ted described the resolution, which came from outside our organization.
 - The committee proposed to present it to the membership with a Do Pass recommendation.
 - Ted would be the 34th sponsor.
 - Ted moved to approve the resolution; Ann Martin seconded. Resolution was approved via voice vote.
- **Resolution in Support of App-based Worker Minimum Wage**
 - Ann explained that this resolution was previously approved by the board, and submitted to Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell due to time constraints of a pending repeal effort by the city council.
 - Rachel Glass was the sponsor and described the resolution.
 - This resolution will be sent directly to the membership.
- **Resolution in Support of a Sound Transit Chinatown/International District Underground Station vs the Previously Approved Stations North and South of the CID.**
 - Ted described the resolution.
 - This option would require additional construction time and increased funding.
 - King County Executive Dow Constantine is against it.
 - There is no sponsorship from the 34th.
 - The committee recommended returning this resolution to its maker.
- **Resolution Calling for the Impeachment of Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito**
 - Ted said that initially this resolution called only for the impeachment of Alito, but that recently Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez had filed articles of impeachment against both Alito and Thomas.
 - The committee is in the process of revising the resolution to include Thomas.
- **A Resolution Condemning Comments of Representative Adam Smith re: Israel-Gaza Conflict Protesters**

- o Ted described the resolution.
- o It was submitted by 34th members Kelsey Vanhee and Roxanne Thayer.
- o There was general discussion over whether Adams' statements were free speech, or an abuse of his position.
- o It was the committee's recommendation that the resolution be returned to makers.
 - o Chris Porter so moved; Ted seconded.
 - o Motion was passed via voice vote.
- **Resolution Calling for the Withdrawal of President Biden as Candidate for President**
 - o This resolution was submitted by Marty Strelecky.
 - o The Presidential nomination was to take place virtually by the DNC prior to our August meeting date.
 - o The legality per our bylaws was questioned considering our previous endorsement of Biden.
 - o Chris Porter will be our national delegate and stated that he would not follow the resolution.
 - o Julie Whitaker moved to return the resolution to its originator; Chris seconded.
 - o Motion passed via voice vote.

Campaign Donation Recommendations

\$8,000 was previously budgeted to be distributed in the 2024 elections. Rachel presented the donation recommendations from Chair Graham Murphy in conjunction with the Endorsements and Resolutions Committee for various races:

- Governor – Bob Ferguson. **Revisit in September**
- Attorney General – Nick Brown and Manka Dhingra. **Revisit in September**
- Lands Commissioner – Dave Upthegrove. **\$ 500 in August**
- Secretary of State – Steve Hobbs. **Revisit in September**
- State Supt. of Public Schools – Chris Reykdal. **\$ 500 in August**
- Seattle Council Position 8 – Alexis Mercedes Rinck. **\$ 350 in August**
- Initiatives I-2109, I-2117, and I-2124 – **\$ 2,000** to the umbrella entity Defend Washington in August.
 - o Chris Porter rose to remind us that until the appointment of Steve Hobbs as Secretary of State, the office had been in the hands of the GOP for 55 years.
 - o Chris moved to amend the proposal for August by giving \$ 500 to Steve Hobbs. Julie Whitaker seconded the motion.
 - o The vote by Zoom Hand fails: 4 in favor, 8 against.
 - o Ted Barker expressed concern of the discrepancy between funds on hand for Chris Reykdal and his opponent who had raised more than double.
 - o Hannah Cameron moved to give Steve Hobbs \$350 and an additional \$150 (for a total of \$650) to Reykdal in August; Ann seconded.
 - o Vote by Zoom Hand passes 11 for, 1 against.
- Ann Martin moved to send the amended budget to the membership; Hannah Cameron seconded. Motion is carried via voice vote.

Succession Plan for the 2025-2026 Term

- Board members were asked to transmit their intentions to the Chair whether they wish to continue in their current roles.

Annual Picnic – Rachel

- The picnic will be Saturday September 7th, 4-7pm at Shelter No. 3 in Lincoln Park.
- Volunteers will be needed: Hannah Cameron, Chris Porter, and Bunny Hatcher volunteered to help with planning. Ann Martin also volunteered, and Julie Whitaker may be able to help as well.
- The budget for the picnic is \$1300.
- Carla Rogers suggested that we cater the event again, but to scale back the amount of food we order.

King County Democrats Report – Bunny Hatcher

- The KCDCC did not meet in June.
- The KC Democrats' Endorsement Committee met to consider Initiatives. They voted to endorse a NO position on 1-2109, 2117, and 2124 which will be on the November 5th ballot.
- The committee also preemptively endorsed a NO position on the yet to be approved for the fall ballot I-2166, which would stop the ban on natural gas in Washington State.

State Party Report – Ted Barker

- The State Party met to select State Presidential Electors and Alternates.

August Board Meeting

- Chair Murphy has a conflict for the third Wednesday of August.
- Ann Martin moved that we meet on Monday, August 19th; Jules Williams seconded. The motion passed via a voice vote.

Good of the Order

- Hannah Cameron brought forth a message we received from a member regarding the fact that the same people consistently put forth motions and seconds at our meetings, and feels that we should foster greater involvement from other members. Several remedies were suggested:
 - That we wait several seconds to allow other members to move to adopt or approve business items.
 - Have members raise their hands and allow the Chair to choose members to make motions.
 - Have Chair then note who moves and seconds.
 - Chair should explain procedures and expected decorum.
 - Steve Butts offered to inform the member that we took up the issue. Either he or Chair Murphy will do so.
- Steve Butts noted the passing of long-time member Georgette Valle and past State Rep. from the 31st and the 34th.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:39 PM.