

34th District Democrats
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, August 11, 2010 @ Hall at Fautleroy

7:02pm – Meeting called to order by Chair Tim Nuse. Becky Carlson was invited to lead the flag salute.

7:03pm – Chair entertained a motion to adopt the agenda and to approve the [June](#) and [July meeting minutes](#) (*attached*). The motion was moved and seconded, then passed by the body.

7:04pm - *Chair's Report* - Chair began by introducing special guest Congressman Jim McDermott (WA-7th) to speak. Congressman McDermott thanked members for their hard work, reminding everyone of the importance of face-to-face canvassing and connecting with voters; and then proceeded to rally members for final Get Out The Vote efforts in the coming weekend.

Chair continued with the recognition of some particular hard-working members:

- Hospitality Chair, Richard Bartlett, helped lead another successful Annual Picnic and shows up every month to assist with A/V at our meetings
- Membership Chair, Jeff Upthegrove, runs credentialing for our monthly meetings, keeps the District on top of the CompleteCampaigns software, and often assists in distributing e-mails to our membership list
- Web Editor, Bill Schrier, does wonders keeping our website up-to-date with the latest news and information; but many members don't know that he has singlehandedly been responsible for maintaining name badges for members for well over five years now. This involves bringing boxes back and forth every month, alphabetizing and tidying up, and creating new and replacement name cards. **Unfortunately, other duties in his life are making it difficult to continue on a consistent basis and our organization is looking for one or two successors to take over this welcoming task for our membership.**

Chair is happy to report that \$265.00 was raised from “passing the hat” for Vanessa Downing’s family at last month’s meeting, and also reminded everyone to mark their calendars for some upcoming events:

- August 12 – Fundraiser for Joe McDermott for King County Council at home of Seattle City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen
- **August 13 – 34th District Democrats Annual Garden Party and Auction at West Seattle Nursery**
- August 14 – Canvassing with Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) – Kick-off at the Coordinated Campaign office
- August 15 – Summer Party for Joe McDermott for King County Council
- August 15 – Salmon Bake and Wine Tasting for Senator Murray at home of Matt Bergman

7:18pm - *Vice Chair's Report* – With such a packed agenda, Vice Chair Kim Becklund thanked everyone who put in hard work to help support tonight’s program.

7:19pm - *Campaign Update – Joe McDermott* – Outgoing State Senator Joe McDermott continued the GOTV rally with encouraging words to PCO's and volunteers and by seeking help with canvassing and encouraging support at numerous fundraisers in the last weekend before the primary. [See video on [West Seattle Blog](#)]

7:24pm - *Campaign Update – Field Organizer Colin Bartz-Overman* – Bartz wrapped up the GOTV words for the membership and encouraged attendance at upcoming events for Senator Patty Murray around the area.

7:27pm - *Transportation Forum* – Vice Chair welcomed Tracy Burrows, a Strategic Advisor from the [Seattle Department of Transportation](#), Seattle City Councilmember and Transportation Committee Chair, [Tom Rasmussen](#), and [Rob Johnson, Executive Director](#) of Transportation Choices Coalition.

The Forum began with questions for Burrows regarding the Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement. She spoke about the current status of the project and schedule – and specifically about work currently underway on the [S. Holgate Street to S. King Street \(South end\)](#) construction, and how that will be staged along with potential impacts to West Seattle drivers.

She also reported that the new [4th Avenue Off-ramp from the Spokane Street Viaduct](#) will be opening on Monday, August 16th, and spoke about plans to keep people and goods moving through this corridor over the next several years and numerous construction projects.

Councilmember Rasmussen spoke about the role of the Transportation Master Plan in Seattle's vision for the future, and key barriers that exist right now for improving pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities in the city. He also answered questions from the audience about the cost overruns disagreements between the City Council and Mayor McGinn and the cost-benefits of building more streetcar lines.

Johnson spoke about recent efforts locally to create or update Master Plans with regard to Bicyclists, Pedestrians, and Transit in Seattle. The key success is that now elected leaders, planners, and neighborhoods can begin asking questions, creating and prioritizing lists of projects, and seeking funding. Prior to these updates, there seemed to be talk but little foundation for action.

Johnson also spoke about the connections between transportation and land use/density. His organizations lobbied hard for the Transit-Oriented Development bill in Olympia last session; and its failure demonstrated the need for increased public education around the implications of our land use decisions and the amount of misunderstanding amongst the public about the impacts of our choices.

Johnson urged Democrats to be more involved in supporting funding for transit in Olympia next session and in future years. More money for transit is critical to the success of the Viaduct project as well as for mitigation of the significant impacts that construction will have on the 34th District for several years.

[See the [West Seattle Blog](#) for a photo of the panel and additional reporting...]

8:36pm - *Streets for All Seattle – Dorsol Plants* – Plants spoke briefly about this newly formed coalition which is campaigning for the city to commit \$30 million per year in dedicated funding to improve walking, biking

and transit infrastructure. He will be presenting an endorsement resolution to the Executive Board and asking members to endorse the campaign at next month's meeting.

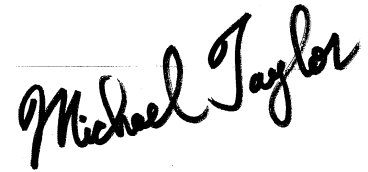
8:41pm – *New Business* – Hearing no requests, Chair took a moment to recognize new members in attendance at tonight's meeting.

8:42pm - *Good of the Order* – Libby Carr from Alki Community Council spoke about the upcoming [Alki Plaza Summer Concert & Family Fun Day – Sunday, September 12, 2010](#).

Recently appointed [King County Superior Court Judge Beth Andrus](#) introduced herself to the membership and announced that she already needs to run for election to be retained as judge.

8:47pm - There being no further business to pursue, Chair motioned to adjourn for the evening.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Taylor-Judd, Secretary