

**34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats  
Executive Board Meeting  
Wednesday, March 17, 2010 – Puget Ridge Co-Housing**

*Attendees: Tim Nuse (Chair), Michael Taylor-Judd (Secretary), Les Treall (Outreach Chair), Kim Becklund (First Vice Chair), Jeff Upthegrove (Membership Chair), Jackie Dupras (Newsletter Editor), Tara Jo Heinecke (Diversity Chair), Ivan Weiss (King County Committeeman), Dorsol Plants (King County Committeeman Alternate), Stu Yarfitz (Treasurer), Bill Schrier (Web Editor), David Ginsberg (Second Vice Chair), Chris Porter (State Committeeman), Brian Earl (Bylaws Chair), and Ann Martin*

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Tim, at 7:05pm.

Tim offered a few remarks about the Caucus and how our attendance numbers compared to other LD's.

He also gave Jackie a few minutes to talk about her upcoming trip out of town, when she will be unable to prepare the newsletter mailing. Tara Jo & Dorsol volunteered to complete the mailing on her behalf, and will work with her on details.

Minutes of the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved.

*Endorsement Rules* – Brian reviewed the proposed changes that the Bylaws Committee had agreed upon at their meeting (see *attached*):

- In #1 & #2, allow flexibility to hold the Endorsement meeting in the months before an election, so that we don't have to come back every election cycle and open these rules up for approval
- In #5, specifically define spoiled ballots as not counting toward votes cast
- Change the endorsement threshold from 2/3 to 60%
- A Third Ballot is a vote for "Dual Endorsement" and WILL be conducted by show of hands
- A new section #8 regarding Reconsideration of Previously Endorsed Races - In cases where a significant change occurs in the nature of a previously endorsed race (e.g., a candidate drops out of the race, a previously endorsed candidate fails to advance through the primary) a previously endorsed race may be reconsidered by the Membership.
  - 8.1. Any previously endorsed candidate(s) in a race will retain his/her endorsement.
  - 8.2. Voting may be by either written ballots or by a show of hands.
  - 8.3. A candidate for office on the General Election ballot who was not previously endorsed may be endorsed as a co-endorsee if that candidate receives a 60% vote of eligible members present.
  - 8.4. If no candidate endorsed by the District advances to the Primary or General Election Ballot, the endorsement of a candidate shall follow the regular procedures and requirements set forth above.

Discussion followed on various topics covered by the rules and their purpose. Members liked the 60% threshold, but it should specify "or more." What are the merits of allowing only a single or dual endorsement vs. multiple endorsements? What is the meaning of the endorsement process or what is the value for members? How can we highlight new "up & comers" like Dorsol was in the city council races? Is the endorsement process the right place?

**Tim moved to accept the proposed amendments to the Endorsement Rules, as submitted by the Bylaws Committee. Jeff seconded the motion, which passed 9-Yes, 3-No, with 1 abstention. A request was made for further discussion on the purpose of endorsements by the organization.**

*Nominating Convention, Candidate Forum, Endorsement Meeting, and other program concepts* – Spirited debate continued from the previous meeting. Tim made it clear that the State Party wants it to occur before the filing period ends. Concerns were raised again about the possibility of “splitting the vote” with different candidates endorsed by the membership and nominated by the PCO’s. Tim said that he had spoken with State Chair, Dwight Pelz, who felt that it would set a bad precedent to allow one LD to operate differently from the others, and it could be perceived negatively if it looked like an LD was simply ignoring the rules set by the Party. Concerns were raised about making a decision before the filing period ends, which seems undemocratic; while others felt that any viable candidate should be well-versed in the political realities of the current election cycle and our district.

A plan was shaped to hold a Candidates Forum and Summary of the Legislative Session at April’s General Membership meeting, followed by an Endorsement Meeting and Nominating Convention in May. **When Tim called for a vote to endorse this plan, it was approved 10-Yes, 3-No.**

*Annexation Forum* – Tim wanted to briefly continue the previous meeting’s conversation about holding a forum on annexation of the North Highline area. As discussion occurred, consensus of the group was that the purpose would be to educate members on the topic. It should be held in the North Highline area, as the neighborhood directly affected; and should occur outside a regular membership meeting so as to reach out to constituents who are not currently members. The forum should not be held until a vote is actually scheduled for some future date. Some expressed doubt that a proposal would be made soon, due to the current budget crisis at the City.

Dorsol suggested we look into options for taking the general membership meeting “on the road” to other neighborhoods in the District. One possible complication may be our ongoing commitment for use of the Hall at Fautleroy.

*New Business* – Michael accepted three resolutions submitted for a vote by the membership (*attached*) on establishing a Bank of Washington State, port trucking operations, and endorsing I-1068 which “would eliminate all criminal penalties for the adult use, possession and cultivation of marijuana.” No recommendation was made by the Board.

Tim expressed his desire to early endorse Joe McDermott for the King County Council seat and make a contribution to his campaign. He would announce this plan to the membership in his Chair’s Letter in the next newsletter, and it could be implemented through a suspension of the meeting and endorsement rules. Consensus of the group was wholehearted support for the idea.

*Good of the Order* – Ivan reminded everyone that the [King County Democrats Convention](#) will be held on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at the IAM Hall in South Seattle.

Kim reminded everyone that Delridge Days will be held in the summer again this year, on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.

Submitted by,

Michael Taylor-Judd, Secretary