

34th District Democrats
Executive Board Minutes
Meeting of 18 October 2006
Bill Schrier, Secretary

134. Chair Ivan Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.
- 134.1 Attending: Bill Schrier, Cherisse Luxa, Jackie Dupras, Robin Hess, Ivan Weiss, Greg Doss, Tanya Aguilar, Les Treall, Richard Bartlett, Steve Karbowski, Ann Martin, Bruce Stotler.
- 134.2 Also: Doug Hurley—works on infrastructure / transportation issues—tonight the Viaduct replacement project. Greg Doss asked Doug to attend to address transportation issues.
135. Viaduct Discussion—Doug Hurley:
- 135.1 Gov. Gregoire likely to make a decision about the replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct on 12 November.
- 135.2 Who is in charge of transportation in Washington State? Toyota and Exxon Mobil and General Motors, all of whom sell us stuff. And elected officials, government employees and constituents have a wide variety of views about transportation. Clearly we need to figure out how to move people around in this City differently. One major issue we have is the hourglass figure of the City—1.5 million vehicles pass north-south through the “screen line from Elliott Bay to Capitol Hill.
- 135.3 In 1953 when the Viaduct was built there was no I-5 and the waterfront was a slum. “Downtown” did not extend to the waterfront—it was an area around the Olympic Hotel. We built a freeway on the waterfront as a form of urban renewal. Now it is an important traffic corridor, but the Viaduct is really ugly and noisy. But we'd never build it there today just as Portland and San Francisco would never build viaducts on their waterfronts today, either. We need a solution which does not replicate the 1953 urban-renewal-style decision. We need a decision which reflects today.
- 135.4 WSDOT is a highway agency. They insist we must replace all the existing and planned traffic capacity and it has to be with concrete lanes. Such a solution ignores transit, car pooling, etc. The proposed elevated highway is a huge physical structure. The Great Wall of China is 30 feet tall and 15 feet wide. The proposed viaduct is twice as high and five times as wide. Yet the latest estimates for the tunnel are at \$4.6 billion. We (the City) has asked for a breakdown of this number and still don't have it. The published number for the viaduct is \$2.8 billion, but that number ignores other facts:
- 135.5 Rebuilding an elevated viaduct violates a whole set of existing Seattle planning and zoning laws, noise rules, comprehensive plan, neighborhood plan (Pioneer Square is a residential area, not a highway) and other ordinances. If the City resists, the total cost of the viaduct replacement is \$4.5 to \$5 billion.
- 135.6 But a blow-up between the City and the State will be bad for Democrats generally and the involved elected officials in particular.
- 135.7 Is this the “big dig?” The Big Dig in Boston has 80 lane-miles of tunnel; we have 6 lane-miles of tunnel. Also note that the 520 project is a “must do” project and WSDOT's estimating methods for these two projects are not being applied to suburban transportation projects. Upshot: the numbers for the viaduct replacement may be quite inflated.
- 135.8 Our spare capacity is not on concrete highway lanes but in the empty seats in our present vehicles. Other issues include very poorly designed off ramps.
- 135.9 The present strategy is to try and delay the decision so the Governor doesn't feel pressured to make a decision right now, which would probably be an elevated replacement.
- 135.10 The 37th LD Democrats passed a resolution saying “please don't build the elevated.”
- 135.11 Schrier moved, Doss seconded that we put a similar resolution in front of the membership in November.

136. Discussion
- 136.1 Does it need action items? No, it is a policy statement.
 - 136.2 Robin moved to call the question. Passed unanimously.
 - 136.3 Re: presenting it to the membership—passed 7 to 2.
 - 136.4 Ann / Greg moved we present it to the membership with a E-Board recommendation to pass.
 - 136.5 Passed 7 to 4.
137. Schrier confirmed the 34th District's positions on measures which will be on the ballot in the fall.
138. We dispensed with most committee reports due to lack of time.
139. Treasurer's report.
- 139.1 We cannot give money at this time to Maria Cantwell, Darcy Burner or Peter Goldmark—the State Party (which, organizationally, includes us) has maxed out on permissible contributions. Greg is awaiting a call back from Dwight Pelz about this.
 - 139.2 Here's what we've contributed:
 - 139.3 No on 933 \$750
 - 139.4 No on 920 \$750—will be matched by WEA. (Washington Education Association).
 - 139.5 Yes on 937 \$750.
 - 139.6 Greg and Walter met and looked at the budget after all these contributions— including the ones which we may not be able to make (Cantwell, Burner, Goldmark – see 139.1 above) – it looks like we'll end up \$2500 to \$3000 in the bank at the end of the year, about half of what we expected. But it should be a safe amount. From a cash flow point of view, we'll need to recruit members and get dues paid as early as possible in 2007.
140. Vashon - Saturday - fundraiser for Maria Cantwell netted over \$10,000. We'll also recruit the folks who attended that to be members of the 34th District.
141. Saturday November 4th—non-profit called “Megawatt” has its 3rd annual West Seattle “Gathering of neighbors,” noon to 3pm (doors open at 11AM), at Chief Sealth High School. It will cost us a \$25 registration fee to set up a table there. See e-mail from Ivan today.
- 141.1 Bruce moved, Ann seconded to spend \$25 to register. Passed unanimously.
 - 141.2 Ivan stated we should send an e-mail news item about this.
142. Sample ballots were mailed today. Materials will be available for PCOs this weekend from Jackie or Cherrisse. Jackie has called almost every PCO to tell them this.
143. Walking lists. PCOs need to sign up for access to the voterfile. When they do, Ivan or Jackie get notified and activate the PCO's account. Jackie will also send out instructions on how to use the new voterfile.
144. Maggies are Friday night and we have a table. Electeds will also have a table each if they call fill them. Emcee is Dan Savage.
145. Russ Feingold is appearing with Maria Cantwell Saturday morning at 6535 Ravanna Ave. N., the Roosevelt Community Center.
146. Bruce—State Committee—Karen Marchioro sent a note about YD voting membership on the WSDCC. There is also a set of initiatives or resolutions to re-apportion representation on the WSDCC more according to population.

147. November program:
 - 147.1 Election debriefing. Legislators to discuss legislative races and implications. Also members will get a chance to speak up.
 - 147.2 Viaduct replacement resolutions and discussion
 - 147.3 County reorganization process—by KCDCC Chair Suzie Sheary. She will be running for another term. Suzie has confirmed that she will attend.
 - 147.4 Our own reorganization process is scheduled for January. All offices are up for re-election in January. Be sure to let the membership know.
148. Note: PCO elections—September primary. Only two contested elections—Maggie Larrick won in BUR 34-0846 and Lois Elenich beat Linda Johnson in SEA-34-1443.
149. Holiday party in December. In lieu of the regular meeting? We generally agreed an “in lieu of” is best. The Hall at Fauntleroy normally doesn't let groups bring in food, but may give us an exception. Maybe get a youth musical group from White Center to entertain? Ivan or Cherisse or Tanya will call. Probably is a charge for the group. Budget has \$250 for holiday party. Ann Martin can also check at High Point community center as an alternate venue. The Hall has confirmed. We will hire the bartender as usual, and the party will be in the Vashon Room.
150. Garden Party 2007. Maggie Larrick and Joe McDermott have a strategy to lock in S. Seattle Community College and hopefully Bob Watt as auctioneer before the end of the year. Maggie also has plans to invite prominent Democrats statewide to the event.
151. Good of the order.
 - 151.1 Drinking Liberally Burien last month—Frank Chopp and a number of other State Representatives attended.
 - 151.2 Last KC LAC—Joe McDermott attended and talked about public financing of elections.
 - 151.3 Joe McDermott's fundraiser is tomorrow night at Ovio.
 - 151.4 October 26th is the Helpline Auction.
 - 151.5 White Center food bank auction is Saturday night this week.
 - 151.6 Tanya had about 10 people at the phone bank last night to call into the 15th.
152. We adjourned at 9:09 PM