

34th District Democrats
Executive Board Minutes
Meeting of 20 September 2006
Bill Schrier, Secretary

116. Attending: Maggie Larrick, Richard Barlett, Tim Nuse, Ann Martin, Steve Karbowski, Les Treall, Bruce Stotler, Jackie Dupras, Greg Doss, Tanya Aguilar, Ivan Weiss, Cherisse Luxa, Bill Schrier.
117. Chair Weiss called the meeting to order at about 7:05 PM at the home of Ann Martin.
118. We celebrated Tim Nuse's 30th birthday by eating cake and drinking coffee.
119. Seattle City Councilmember Richard Conlin discussed Proposition 1 “Bridging the Gap” with the Board. See handout. This proposition will be on the November ballot for Seattle voters. It is a nine year program which generates about \$545 million to improve/repair streets, bridges, sidewalks, transit in the City. Of this total, \$365 million is a property tax (levy-lid lift), \$128 million is commercial parking tax raises, and \$52 million is a business transportation tax. Both the commercial parking tax rise and the business transportation tax can be enacted by the Council, without voter approval.
 - 119.1 State voters passed several initiatives over the past 15 years which have considerably reduced transportation funding. While these initiatives passed statewide, they failed in Seattle. Due to these initiatives, and various recessions such as Boeing bust in the early 1970’s, there is now a considerable backlog of deferred maintenance on streets and transportation structures.
 - 119.2 In response to questions, Conlin stated:
 - 119.2.1 This package does not handle the 14th Ave S. Bridge.
 - 119.2.2 The package raises all paid parking, but does not expand paid parking into residential neighborhoods, e.g. Westlake, which is a separate issue
 - 119.2.3 We have this huge backlog—why have the Mayor and Council allowed this to happen? The backlog started in the 1970s Boeing recession. A citizens’ commission made a number of recommendations including bonds and a street utility. The Bond issue received 57% of the vote, but failed because it needed 60%. The street utility was struck down in the courts. Nevertheless the Council and Mayor have tripled transportation funding since the mid-1990’s.
 - 119.2.4 Arterial improvements—in addition to resurfacing there are also signal timings, re-striping and reorganizing lanes, and so forth, to improve rapid transit.
 - 119.2.5 Provides matching funds for earthquake strengthening the Spokane Street Viaduct, a new 4th Avenue South off-ramp and widening.
 - 119.2.6 Freight implications include the Lander Street overpass.
 - 119.2.7 Parking tax – the package includes an increasing 5%–7.5%–10% tax on commercial parking. What do other cities have as a tax? San Francisco has 25% to 30%, and St. Louis, LA and NYC are similar.
 - 119.3 Conlin stated the Council will not put up the Alaskan Way Viaduct for a public vote. Council has been elected to make the decision. It is a false choice to give people, because it is an advisory vote and the Governor makes the decision anyway.
 - 119.4 Conlin's position on viaduct: reconnection to waterfront is important.
120. Ann moved, Greg seconded that we recommend the membership endorse this measure at our October meeting. In favor of this motion, these are needed improvements, and we've funded roadways at higher levels in the past, until the Eyman initiatives. On the other side, some board members don't like the idea of lowering the 2/3 requirement to pass the endorsement at the meeting. And property taxes are already a burden on seniors and other constituents. This motion

- passed 7 to 4.
- 120.1 Les: Can we add pro and con blurb to the newsletter on this?
 - 120.2 Cherisse: Let's make sure we have a comment from CM Rasmussen at the meeting on this.
- 121. Chair's report. Ivan Weiss.
 - 121.1 Nothing other than the information below.
 - 122. Treasurer's Report. Greg Doss. Treasury has \$14,800 balance now. Net proceeds from Garden Party are a little over \$6000, a bit better than last year. Total and complete figures will go into the newsletter.
 - 123. Garden Party. Maggie Larrick. Steve Herndon donated towards the beer, reducing costs. The wine was a little higher than planned because Bear Silverstein under-calculated by about \$100. She doesn't have an estimate of the number attending yet.
 - 123.1 Next year's Garden Party: Bob Watt wants to know where and when before the end of 2006 if we are to ask him to auctioneer. Do we want to go to SSCC? Cost will increase—\$400 to \$600 to be in the entry garden next to the Chinese garden there, versus \$0 for the Nursery. Spectacular site. A location inside SSCC would be higher. Mark Smith of West Seattle Nursery would support us moving to SSCC. We will investigate this and make a decision prior to the end of the year.
 - 123.2 Also King County agreed to pay the credit card fees for the Garden Party but they may exceed \$300. If that high we might help by reimbursing King County.
 - 124. Chore services event on September 16th. Steve Karbowski. Six people showed up to help. There is a new volunteer chore services coordinator named Maggie. The location was technically in the 11th District. Steve is thinking about planning for another event to occur after November general election.
 - 125. Membership. Jackie. 430 members. Lots of new members, thanks to arm-twisting by Bruce for Mayor's Office Staff.
 - 126. State Committee. No report.
 - 127. County Committee. Meets next Tuesday. Some general election endorsements at that meeting.
 - 128. Coordinated campaign update. John Ehrman is working extremely hard. Has been identifying precincts which need to be canvassed. Online voterfile: The new V-Mate has good interface but does not have any direct PCO access. Jackie can send walking lists etc. to members and PCOs, or they can continue to use Version 1, which has current information.
 - 129. October Meeting—General Election Endorsements:
 - 129.1 City of Seattle Bridging the Gap Proposition 1—Transportation. We just recommended endorsement.
 - 129.2 King County Proposition Transit Now. Needs action.
 - 129.3 Tunnel vote resolution—demanding public vote on the Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement. We tabled this last meeting
 - 129.4 Vashon PUD is endorsed.
 - 129.5 Sonics arena on ballot for City of Seattle. We defeated this once in August.
 - 129.6 We are already on record opposing I-920 (repeal the estate tax) and I-933 (compensation for landowners/developers) and supporting the clean energy I-937.

130. October Meeting—Other Program
- 130.1 Marilyn Omev—on the Vashon-Maury Unincorporated Area Council and Laura Hendricks of Gig Harbor say the State, without public input, is approving shellfish farms up and down Puget Sound, damaging the Sound's environment. We decided to ask Laura Hendricks and Preserve our Islands to do a program at the October meeting. We could bring other people in to talk about the health of the Sound.
131. New Business.
- 131.1 Rosellini Dinner. Tacoma Sheraton Friday night 29 September. Dwight Pelz wants us the District to host a table. We agreed on show of hands to host one (which means we'll have to find people to pay \$50 a head to come).
- 131.2 Thursday, September 28th Latino Vote project fund-raiser Torero's in Kent. \$50. Ivan convinced Matt Bergman to contribute \$10,000 for the LVP. Bergman is a leading trial lawyer, Vashon Island. The contribution will help pay Tania Maria Rosario's salary. She's quite a dynamic leader for this effort.
- 131.3 White Center Food Bank dinner Oct. 21st Saturday. West Seattle Democratic Women will probably spring for a table. Should we have one as well? It includes a good silent auction. We agreed to reserve a table.
- 131.4 47th District. Pat Sullivan is in a major fight to retain his State House seat. Dave Upthegrove is sponsoring a fund-raiser at his parents' house on Thu Oct. 5th. Schrier-Stotler moved we recommend a contribution of \$250 to the membership for the October meeting. We passed this recommendation. But we won't give him an address list.
- 131.5 We agreed to send an e-mail to the membership about this and also soliciting members to attend the dinners noted above.
- 131.6 Susie Sheary has asked all District chairs to ask our elected officials to give money to the County organization. Can they contribute from their campaign funds? Or does it have to be personal? Ivan will call them individually.
132. Good of the order.
- 132.1 Should we do a mailing of a sample ballot for the general election? Mailing to precincts without PCOs and other precincts where there are a lot of apartments or which have PCO's who won't be walking.
- 132.2 And newspaper ads? West Seattle Herald. White Center News. Highline Times. Vashon Beachcomber. Printing was \$250 to \$300. Mailing costs? Probably a couple thousand. What's important to highlight? Passing 937, beating 920, Susan Owens for Supreme Court. Absentee ballots are mailed three weeks prior, so the day after the October district meeting the sample ballot will need to go to the printer. Since this expenditure is in the budget, it does not have to go to the membership. Jackie will lead preparation of the sample ballot and mailing. We also need to get the literature drop out ASAP after the meeting.
133. Future business:
- 133.1 Do another forum (such as the July energy forum).
134. Adjourned 9:14pm.