

**34th DISTRICT DEMOCRATS
MONTHLY MEETING - MINUTES
2/8/05**

Call to Order: 7:00 PM
Flag Salute led by Tom Rasmussen

CHAIR'S REPORT - The chair highlighted volunteer activities available within the District and reminded everyone of the page in our newsletter devoted to this. The Chair also updated attendees on the upcoming KCDCC honors banquet for which the District has purchased a table and there are still 4 seats to fill, the Legislative Action Day planned in Olympia on the 20th which Toni Lysen is organizing, and a fundraiser for Congressman Jim McDermott at Gail Katz's house.

TREASURER'S REPORT – In the Treasurer's absence, The Chair relayed the information on the District's current account balance. The report was approved by membership.

PROGRAM – HOUSING ISSUES

Presentation by Velma Veloria, Executive Director of the International District Housing Alliance (IDHA)

Velma runs the White Center office of the IDHA. The Alliance offers: home ownership classes in 7 languages, financial literacy workshops, coordinating of matching funds programs with the City of Seattle and other agencies, and coordinates with various land trusts to create parcels that are restricted for low-income housing use. The guiding belief of the IDHA is that increasing home ownership among lower income citizens brings solidity and vibrancy to the community. Velma further mentioned that there are many volunteer opportunities, particularly for individuals with experience in the mortgage industry. The IDHA would like to forge closer connections with the 34th in an effort to create greater cultural connections within the District.

Presentation by Adrienne Quinn, Director of the City of Seattle Office of Housing

Adrienne informed the membership that the Housing Office administers Seattle's low-income housing levy, partners with many organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, to create more low-income housing, runs a special program to assist teachers in finding affordable housing, partners with other entities to provide low-interest loans (3%) with flexible repayment terms to qualifying homeowners for repair and rehab, and helps to develop public policies for low-income housing. Highlighting accomplishments in West Seattle, she pointed out the work that has been done with the Croft Place TownHomes, the Vivian McLean Apartments, and the Youngstown Center (the Old Cooper School).

Presentation by Tom Rasmussen, Seattle City Councilmember and Chair of the Housing, Human Services and Health Committee

Councilmember Rasmussen shared with membership both past accomplishments of the Council, as well as some of the ideas for the future. He passed out a document highlighting these ideas. Among them were: creating a land acquisition fund for low-income housing, creating a task force to look at code changes that could encourage affordable housing, using underdeveloped properties for affordable housing, launching an on-line affordable housing search engine similar to one that has proven very successful in Portland and encouraging co-location of affordable housing and municipal services/structures, e.g. libraries.

Presentation by Elana Dix, Seattle Alliance for Good Jobs and Housing (SAGE)

Elana handed out a document titled "Principles for Responsible Development In Downtown Seattle." The key objective of this effort is to ensure that the Mayor's plan to increase density downtown benefits residents of all incomes. SAGE supports Councilmember Peter Steinbruck's proposal to levy a charge of \$20 per square foot for buildings that exceed certain height limits. After hearing Elana's presentation, a motion was made to suspend the rules in order to pass a motion developed by SAGE. The motion called on the Mayor and the City Council to ensure that revisions to the Downtown Seattle Development Plan allowing more development include impact fees. The fees would force developers who benefit from these changes to also shoulder the fair burden of the public cost of new development (e.g. decreased affordable housing, increased municipal transportation expense and other impacts). The motion to suspend the rules passed by a vote of 39 to 11. The motion passed 41 to 2.

Motion to Pass a Resolution "On the Restoration of Order in Restricting Voter Rights for Incarcerated Felons"

Dan Fievez and other members spoke to this motion, pointing out that Washington's current laws are unduly onerous on ex felons in the restoration of their voting rights. Current laws have too many restrictions based on so-called credit worthiness and other issues extraneous to an individual's privilege to vote. The resolution called for passage of Senate bill 6651 and House bill 2873. The motion passed 54 to 2.

OTHER MATTERS

Budget Presentation - Walter Sive presented the board-approved fiscal/calendar year budget. The budget was approved by a vote of 42 to 0.

Election of Treasurer – Nominations were made for Greg Doss and Ann Owchar. Greg received 29 votes, Ann 18. It was suggested since there were two members interested in the position that we create a position of Assistant Treasurer. The Chair made an executive decision to do so.

PCO Appointment – Carol Frontiero of Burton Precinct on Vashon Island was appointed as a new PCO.

OLD BUSINESS, GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Tim Nuse made a presentation on the **Washington Energy Security Initiative**. This is an attempt to get an initiative on the ballot to encourage greater use of cost effective conservation strategies.
- Karen Farnsworth raised concerns about the effort of City agencies to get Social Security numbers from the homeless. She cited, in particular, one social service organization which has refused to implement this policy. In response to this comment, Ann Corbitt pointed out that the City and other government agencies need to do this to support their efforts for federal funding assistance and that the process for gathering these Social Security numbers ensures anonymity.
- Leslie Harris told the membership that she presented to our "electeds" (Joe McDermott, Dow Constantine, Erik Poulsen and Eileen Cody) a proposals that they contribute funds towards an effort to inform likely Democratic voters in precincts without a PCO of the upcoming caucus on March 4th. The "electeds" have agreed to fund the cost of the effort.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 PM
Respectfully Submitted
Walter Sive, Acting Secretary