

1. Chair Ivan Weiss convened the meeting at 7:05 PM at the Puget Ridge Co-housing Commons Room. Attending: Richard Bartlett, Greg Doss, Jackie Dupras, Brian Earl, Laura Feinstein, Robin Hess, Steve Karbowski, Ann Martin, Joe McDermott, Tim Nuse, Dorsol Plants, Tom Rasmussen, Walter Sive, Tyler Smith, Marcee Stone, Bruce Stotler, Les Treall, Ivan Weiss, Stu Yarfitz
2. Election results discussion. Primary was yesterday. Most members had been reading or viewing the results.
3. Chair's report. Appointed three PCO's at the August meeting. Ivan will send out the updated PCO list – all three have also filed for election so they are going to start because their precincts are now vacant. Mike Armstrong filed in Precinct 1081 which is Toni Lysen's precinct.
4. Finance. Greg Doss. Greg is logging in auction results – 70 folders done, 25 more to go.
 - 4.1. Ivan: The Treasurer's Report should indicate when the last PDC report has been filed. Greg filed three last week and we are up to date through the 10th of August.
 - 4.2. The budget was modified at the last meeting to include changed amounts for a number of races. Should we write the checks for these or was it just a budget change? We agreed that these decisions have been made and Greg can cut the checks.
 - 4.3. Leslie Harris had this comment: Walter Sive's presentation at the last district meeting implied that the E-Board had "endorsed" the budget. A number of members raised their eyebrows and questioned this. The E-Board certainly had discussed this via e-mail, but had not taken any formal endorsement action. Lessons learned:
 - 4.4. This is just a note for the future in terms of presentations to the general membership:
 - 4.4.1. We need to be clear and careful about what action, if any, the E-Board has taken on a proposed action.
 - 4.4.2. Budgets should also be published in the newsletter in advance of a requested action.
 - 4.4.3. Also, if we are going to conduct business via e-mail we need to be clear whether we are taking formal action or not.
5. Membership. Jackie Dupras. Jackie does not have current figures on membership. Quite a few new members joined at the last meeting, however.
6. Garden Party. Tyler Smith.
 - 6.1. Exact amount is not yet known but we grossed approximately \$9,329 and with about \$2,200 in expenditures which gives us an estimated net of \$7100. Last year our net was about \$10,000. Add \$225 for the Obama-autographed book Ivan auctioned at the membership meeting.
 - 6.2. Debriefing of the event. We lacked some of the large auction items this year, but we spent about twice as much on food and still managed to eat it all. Auctioneer this year was not as good as last year. And we had the party on the same night as opening night of the 2008 Olympics. Attendance at the door was 85 and an informal count by Richard Bartlett was 95, about the same as last year. A lot of regular district meeting attendees and E-Board members did not attend.

- 6.3. Ideas for future. We should consider doing something a little more high-class and extensive, perhaps at the Community College. Greg noted that only about a third of the people at the party buy an auction item, and they buy the same auction items as previous years. Marcee said she has worked with two events at the College and raised about \$10,000 from 180 attendees with a simple silent auction and a dessert auction. Walter noted that we should have a campaign to get prominent West Seattle and 34th District Democrats and elected officials to the Garden Party.
 - 6.4. Robin moved that by the September E-Board meeting we have a committee of five appointed to get started working on next year's Garden Party. Tyler seconded and the motion passed on voice vote.
7. Coordinated Campaign. Kimber.McCreery. In the 34th District we knocked on about 2000 doors. Gov. Gregoire at the top of the ticket received a good margin in the primary. The Campaign recently had a volunteer recruiting party at Sharon Huling's house and we got 29 volunteers from that event. Having a voter registration drive Friday night at Alki Beach with a bonfire targeting younger voters.
 8. Hospitality. Dorsol Plants. We ran out of beer at the last meeting. That won't happen again. Pepsi went over really well at the meeting and we have plenty left over from the picnic and Garden Party. The Family Adult Center received leftover meat and hot dogs from the picnic. Next big hospitality event is the holiday party and potluck on December 10th.
 9. Outreach. Les Treall. September 6th is the Statue of Liberty opening event at Alki Beach. We'll have a table for voter registration and since there is a naturalization ceremony in conjunction with this event there are a lot of potential new voters. There is a cleanup along West Seattle Freeway sponsored by the Department of Neighborhoods on September 13th.
 10. Leadership development. Steve Karbowski.
 - 10.1. Public comment meeting was on July 30th and about 20 folks attended. We also got some written comments. LDC met August 18th and will meet again on the 26th to fine tune the "Rules" with a set of recommended rules for consideration by the E-Board at the September E-Board meeting. Should be published to the E-Board at least 10 days in advance.
 - 10.2. Ivan: we'll have to be very clear according to the by-laws who has a vote. Ivan delegated to Tim to determine who the voting members of the E-Board will be in September. Tim will draft ground rules for the voting on this in September.
 11. Complete campaigns / Back Office software implementation. Stu Yarfitz.
 - 11.1. We've had a couple of problems with data loads – we needed some custom fields (e.g. precinct, donation level) which the software company has defined and is now trying to rework the data load. We also need some custom reports for Jackie, e.g. mailing list. Hope to have the membership data loaded by the end of the week. Then we need to eliminate duplicates, identify spouses and generally clean up the data.
 - 11.2. The next priority is to load financial data. Stu will work with Greg on this.
 - 11.3. How about list of attendees of the caucuses – can we load that? We have the legislative district caucus data. This is a big project with 10,000 names, but we also have a general election coming up. Those who attended the precinct caucuses are flagged in the voterfile so we could also download that information from the voterfile.
 12. Old Business. None.

13. September District meeting agenda.
 - 13.1. Additional endorsements for the General Election. We need to endorse Adam Smith. We could consider a Randy Dorn endorsement.
 - 13.2. Get out the Vote and organizing for that – Kimber will present.
 - 13.3. Initiatives. I-26. Pro-Parks Levy.
 - 13.4. Consider additional contributions to candidates, specifically Jason Osgood.

14. Pro-parks Levy. Tom Rasmussen presented some information about the levy. Tom chairs the Parks Committee of the Seattle City Council. The package extends the levy for six years with a \$145 million dollar total. About \$80 a year for a \$450,000 home. Playgrounds, habitat restoration, acquisition and development of parks and playgrounds, and fixing up Langston Hughes and the building in Volunteer Park owned by the Seattle Asian Art Museum.

15. Contributions to the Secretary of State Race. We discussed comments made by Dow Constantine at the last District meeting concerning Secretary of State Candidate Jason Osgood. The comments were based on faulty information. We'll consider a contribution to that campaign in the September meeting. See also the washblog.com post which explains this situation in more detail.

16. Contributions to Community Groups.
 - 16.1. Tyler discussed a potential contribution of \$250 for sponsorship of the West Seattle High School back-to-school breakfast on August 27th. Dow had recommended this to the e-board via e-mail earlier this week. The membership approved a \$1000 line item in the budget for contributions to community groups.
 - 16.2. Discussion: shouldn't we consider contributions to organizations closer to our core mission, e.g. Democrats Work? But the contribution to West Seattle High School gets visibility with high school kids and other young people. And the Coordinated Campaign needs youth support too. Tyler stated about 400 people will attend the breakfast, with a few students – mainly student leadership.
 - 16.3. Bruce moved we contribute \$100 to this breakfast. Ann Martin seconded. Tim Nuse moved to amend the motion with a \$200 contribution and Dorsol seconded. The motion to amend carried about 9 to 3.
 - 16.4. Vote on the main motion as amended 10 to 2.

17. Dorsol moved we contribute \$200 to the Highland Park Action Committee's campaign against the Jail. Robin seconded.
 - 17.1. The money would be used to get youth involved in the campaign, e.g. via a concert at the SCCC which could include voter registration booths for young people.
 - 17.2. Robin moved to table this motion until we know the full extent of community groups who may want such contributions. Laura seconded. Failed 5 to 9.
 - 17.3. We then had a discussion about what is the purpose of making contributions to community groups is. Leslie suggested that any organization we contribute to should help us with cross pollination, e.g. a mention in each other's newsletters or on websites.
 - 17.4. Vote on the original motion: Passed 10 to 3.

18. Budget comments. Joe McDermott.
 - 18.1. The budget had a line item for \$10,000 to run the organization through the end of the year for newsletter, hall rental, etc. The budget also had about \$6000 net cash available at the

end of the year. This is a significant election year. We'll have new money from membership dues at the beginning of 2009. We need to invest in electing Democrats this fall, not rolling money over from this year to next.\

18.2. A long discussion ensued. Most E-Board members agreed that spending the dollars wisely in this election year is more important than carrying a large amount over into 2009. But we also agreed that we did not have enough information about our "burn rate" for normal operations or our present financial status. We also did not have concrete proposals on the table for wise expenditure of funds. We debated putting sample ballots in the newspapers and advertising on the West Seattle and White Center blogs. Some members wanted a mass mailing to the district. Kimber stated that it takes 30 mailings to change one vote, or 10 phone calls or just two in-person visits to change a vote. In the end we agreed to do the following:

18.2.1. The Finance Committee and Treasurer will estimate our burn rate and give us a present financial status, plus the amount of cash we'd have to spend on additional electioneering.

18.2.2. Joe McDermott will make an estimate for a mass postal service mailing.

18.2.3. Ivan Weiss will determine the cost to advertise on the West Seattle and White Center blogs.

18.2.4. Ivan will ask Jackie to make an estimate of newspaper advertising costs, for at least two weeks, for the West Seattle Herald, Highline Times and the Vashon Beachcomber.

19. We adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Schrier
Acting Secretary