

34th District Democrats
General Meeting Minutes
Date – June 8, 2016
Secretary – Kathryn L. Sprigg



Occasional references may be made to attachments distributed at the meeting. These handouts may be accessed at the 34th District website or upon request.

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chair Marcee Stone-Vekich

Chair presented agenda for approval – Items were added and moved. M/S/P Unanimous

Minutes presented for approval – M/S/P Unanimous

Treasurer's report – Karen Chilcutt presented the monthly report. The balance on May 11 was \$12,725. We collected \$1,054 in membership dues and \$300 from T-shirt sales. The largest expenses included outreach (\$300) and meeting venue (\$724) costs. A deposit for the Garden Party Casino Night fundraiser was \$545; total expenses were \$1,764. The ending balance is \$12,315 as of June 8.

Karen discussed the 2016 budget projections and stated that this year was difficult to project because of the caucus costs. Copies of the proposed 2016 budget were on the tables. She is conservatively budgeting revenue from the garden party of \$10,000. She is anticipating \$50,183 in revenue for the 2016 year. Expenditures are projected to be \$59,993. The ending balance is projected to be \$11,457. Members were asked to review the budget prior to an approval vote later in the meeting.

Chair report: The Chair announced that over 150 people have filed to be a 34th district PCO. Some races are contested and some have as many as 3 candidates running. PCO training is scheduled for new and experienced PCOs on July 7 at The Kenney from 6 – 8 PM. We still have precincts that are not represented; we need to get out the vote and need all hands on deck.

Three fundraisers are scheduled on Sunday; Marcee will be sending out e-mails about upcoming events. First Vice Chair Ted Barker talked about propositions coming up. There's a meeting to discuss Terminal 5 plans on Thursday at Alki community center. There's a Meyer's parcel hearing on what the city should do with the parcel.

Program General Meeting:

Speakers

Initiatives: *Campaign for City of Seattle Initiative 124* Abby Lawler Unite Here Local 8 is a sponsor of I124. There is a public investment plan to expand the Convention Center. The initiative aims to protect health and safety of the workforce. They circulated a petition for Seattle residents to sign.

Campaign for Statewide Initiative 732. Grace Stiller (PCO in Burien). The initiative addresses reduction of carbon emissions. A discussion and explanation of the initiative followed. Sign up materials are available, see Grace.

Judicial candidates: Helen Halpert spoke about her 26 year experience on the Bellevue and King County courts.

Maryanne Spearman spoke about her 25 year experience on the King County Superior Court and District Court.

Endorsements

OSPI Race

KumRoan Maksirisombat discussed his career as a teacher and why he is running for Superintendent of Public Instruction. He is against charter schools and vouchers.

David Spring discussed his experience and why he is running for Superintendent. He plans to circumvent the Legislature and go directly to the Supreme Court to address the underfunding issue.

The Chair opened the floor for endorsements. She first explained the endorsement process. Prior to the endorsement process, Greg Hirikawa was invited to speak about his candidacy for King County District Court.

OSPI

Heather Barker nominated Chris Reykdal, Ivan Weiss seconded the nomination.

Martha Koester nominated David Spring, the nomination was seconded.

Marlene Albright nominated KumRoan Maksirisombat; the nomination was seconded.

Erin Jones was nominated by Tim Marshall; the nomination was seconded.

Chris Reykdal spoke for his nomination. He opposes privatization of schools and charter schools. Chris Porter spoke against the endorsement. Ivan Weiss spoke for the endorsement.

Martha Koester ceded her time to candidate David Spring. He wants to double school funding and cut class sizes by half. He called for a repeal of corporate tax breaks that cost millions.

Marlene Albright ceded her time to KumRoan Maksirisombat, who spoke about his candidacy. He wants to cut down on unnecessary testing.

Tim Marshall spoke for Erin Jones and ceded his time to the candidate. Jones spoke about her candidacy. She says she wants to eliminate barriers for students. She has dedicated 25 years of her life to the work.

The tally committee was asked to go to the stage. Ballots were distributed.

Tally results:

24 votes for Reykdal (39%); 27 votes for Jones (44%); 6 votes for Spring (10%); 4 votes for Maksirisombat (7%). No candidate received 60% so voting moved on to the top two candidates. After the second count the Chair reported the results:

Reykdal received 36 votes (56.25%) Jones received 28 votes (41.25%)

Neither candidate received the required 60% so we moved to a dual endorsement. Anne Martin moved the 60% and the motion was seconded. M/S/P unanimous.

Judicial Candidates

Alan Monroe nominated Greg Hirikawa, District Court #4 the motion was seconded.

Ivan Weiss nominated Marianne Spearman for Superior Court the motion was seconded.

Ivan Weiss nominated Helen Halpert the motion was seconded.

Alan Monroe spoke for Greg Hirikawa, who is running unopposed.

Ivan Weiss yielded his time to Judge Spearman, who discussed her experience.

Judge Halpert spoke about her experience and about her opponent who is running against her because she sanctioned that opponent.

All three were endorsed unanimously.

Legislative Report

Senator Sharon Nelson, Representatives Eileen Cody and Joe Fitzgibbon

Senator Nelson spoke about health legislation and the budget. Republicans blocked education funding again. The lack of investments concerns her considering what the Supreme Court may do next. We need to look at other revenue sources. She is concerned about the "Transgender Bathroom Bill"; House Bill

1515 was defeated in the Senate but an initiative may go forward. She spoke about how to retake the majority in the Senate and to grow the House majority so they can be a stronger force.

Representative Cody spoke about progress on the health care bills. They made progress on mental health. Western State Hospital has been a problem; Eastern doesn't have the problems. They're trying to figure out what the difference could be. There aren't enough psychiatrists to hire. They passed a bill dealing with chemical dependency: Ricky's Law. They passed a bill to regulate vaping.

Representative Fitzgibbon spoke about a bill banning six flame retardant chemicals. Washington is the first state in the country to ban them. Other states are following our lead. It was not a landmark session; he had low expectations. They passed a bill to address the achievement gap and a bill addressing opiate use. They've been working on recruiting good candidates to run for State Legislature.

Q&A followed: Prescription monitoring program, increased rental costs and rent control issues, what can members do to flip swing districts back to Democrats, changes to medical marijuana laws, oil trains, candidate to run against Senator Erikson in Ferndale, industrial hemp products.

Initiatives

Motion to endorse I-732, motion seconded.

Motion to endorse signature gathering for I-124 ,motion seconded.

Speaker for I-732 Grace Diller, speaker against Alan Monroe. The initiative did not meet the 60% threshold for endorsement, with 19 votes in favor, 18 against.

Garden Party Plans

Chris Langler and Chris Porter talked about the August Garden Party, which will be at Duos on Avalon Way on Friday, July 29 from 6 to 9 PM. This year will be a Casino Night event. Tickets are available now. Costs for general admission tickets are \$50; VIP tickets are \$90

OLD BUSINESS The Chair asked for a vote on the budget; M/S/P unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS: Reminder Eileen Cody's kickoff Friday night. She has two opponents this year.

PCO Appointments

Rachel Ostandler Burien 0402 was approved unanimously.

GOOD of the ORDER:

Steve Butts There are lots of festivals and parades coming up. Buy a 34th district shirt. Burien Strawberry Festival is June 18 & 19. Morgan Junction Festival is June 19. He needs volunteers for the booth. The KCDCC Committee on DisAbility Quarterly meeting will be at 7 PM on Monday, June 12 at Couth Buzzard Bookstore – 9310 Greenwood Avenue North.

Les Treall We have 159 people who filed for PCO. Doorbelling campaigns will be organized to work on winning back the legislature.

Richard Bartlett Bring your passion for Bernie to the Clinton campaign.

Joe McDermott has been working on campaign finance reform. He has a campaign fundraiser on Sunday.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM