

45<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
February 24, 2007  
Redmond Library

Attendees: Martin Chaney, Priscilla O'Leary, Mike Burner, Lynn Norwood, Brad Larssen, Ralph Gorin, Melissa Waldie, Judith Shattuck, Diane Slota

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Martin Chaney, Chair.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and adopted.

### **Previous Meeting Minutes**

The January 2007 meeting minutes were approved.

### **Proposed General Meeting Agenda Review**

Copies of the proposed General Meeting agenda were distributed and specific items were discussed, as follows:

- Program Section
  - Bob Ferguson is scheduled to talk about King County Council affairs. There was general discuss about the need to support candidates for upcoming elections. Martin noted that the 6<sup>th</sup> district will be an important race to work on this year. Brad asked if anyone had information about Jane Hague's record. Mike noted that there were concerns around her record on environmental issues and general lack of taking action.
  - Don Brocha, Woodinville City Councilmember, is scheduled to speak.
  - John Marchione, Redmond City Councilmember and mayoral candidate, is scheduled to speak.
  - Ralph noted that city council elections will also be coming up in Kirkland. There may be candidates that members want to support individually, even if the LD doesn't take a stand.
  - Martin noted that he has been approached by a gentleman who is running for office in the City of Sammamish. He has referred him to the King County questionnaire to get a sense of where he stands on issues. He will be having lunch with him next week.
  
- Election for First Vice Chair
  - Discussion was held about election procedures, including the need for publishing rules, having sign-in procedures and credentials. Each candidate will get 2 minutes to speak. We will need to have a tally committee.

- Ralph noted that during the December elections on PCOs were eligible to vote and asked for clarification if that would be the same for this election process. It was determined that elected PCOs and appointed PCOs who are PCOs of the precinct where they reside would be eligible to vote.
  - Diane asked if we should have PCO appointments on the agenda prior to the election. It was agreed that it would be best to keep the process straightforward and have any new appointments take place after the election portion of the meeting is complete.
  - Given that there may be some lag times in the election process to allow for tally activities, it was suggested that other issues be interspersed at the appropriate times to fill this time. It was felt that this time could be filled most easily with items such as the short topics to be as efficient as possible.
- Parade volunteers
    - Lynn will call for volunteers for the parades. We are not currently getting any volunteers for this committee and the first parade of the season is next month. Lynn expressed that her experience is if you brainstorm and put time into organizing, the efforts will last for more than a year. Parades and caucuses are two opportunities we have to interface with the public. Currently, Norm and Lynn are working on the parades because no one else has volunteered, but they need others to take on some of these tasks.
    - Melissa noted that Lynn had made a good point with her that we need to ask for volunteers to handle specific tasks rather than more vague calls for committee volunteers. The idea of volunteering for a committee can seem larger and cause some people to hesitate. They are more likely to sign up for a specific job.
    - It was noted that the fees for the Woodinville parade must be turned in by March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
    - There was a feeling that the use of floats is cumbersome and a lot of additional work. The idea was put forward to have LD t-shirts. These could be used for a couple of years and can also be used in caucuses to easily designate the caucus workers. Melissa is working with a vendor and they are looking at ordering 24 to start at a cost of \$240. If desired, members could purchase their own shirts to keep.
    - Ralph moved to approve this expenditure and it was seconded.

**Decisions / Actions:** Passed unanimously.
  - Resolutions
    - It was noted that a motion to support Eric Oemig's resolution put forward in Olympia is not currently on the agenda and Mike asked if we want to craft one. It was decided that since we had not received

anything from the membership we would not take any action to do this.

- Mike asked if there were any other resolutions that had been submitted for this month's meeting and the board members confirmed that none had been received. It was noted that the agenda is already very full and it was felt it would be best to not bring forward any resolutions beyond the impeachment resolution that will be presented by the ad hoc committee formed at the January General meeting.
- Committee Office & Representative Reports
  - The upcoming meetings in Ellensburg were briefly discussed. The Rules Committee will be meeting to work on the caucus rules. They will be coming up with a plan on how we track and retain volunteers out of the caucuses. The Chairs Committee will also be meeting on the same days.
  - The LD LAC Committee will present the results from the poll taken at the January meeting and also report on the recent Legislative Action day in Olympia. It was asked who is currently active in the LD LAC. Melissa noted that Gerry Williams, Kathleen Reynolds and Melissa Waldie are the current active members of the committee. They are currently assigning owners to issues identified by the LD as of interest so that the owners can follow the progress and report back to the LD. Melissa will ask for volunteers to own specific issues that are currently not assigned to anyone.
  - Martin will talk to Paul Yarbrough about giving a report on the recent PCO Training and Crab Feed event.
- General Meeting Agenda Logistics
  - Martin asked for input on the order of items on the agenda.
    - Judith noted that the Short Topics section is the only chance for members to address items important to them. If this section is at the end the agenda, it frequently gets dropped due to time constraints.
    - Mike suggested that we could use the short topics to fill the gaps during the tally times of the elections section.
    - Martin agreed that we want to make sure that people feel that can bring their issues forward and asked if it would help to ask them to fill out an index card at beginning of meeting and the call them forward? After discussion, it was felt that there were generally not enough topics for this action to be necessary.
    - Martin then asked where Short Topics should be put on the agenda. It was recommended to place this section between the New Business and the Endorsements & Resolutions sections.

- Ralph agreed with Judith about having this topic earlier in the agenda. In the past, people had asked him to have it earlier so that the discussions can happen while the elected officials are present and they have a chance to hear the concerns.
- Those providing committee reports will be strongly encouraged to put their reports in writing for posting on the website and to speak briefly at the meeting. Melissa asks if having the written reports on the web would be sufficient so that copies would not be needed at the meeting. It was agreed that printed copies would not be required.

**Decisions / Actions:** The General Meeting Agenda was approved.

### **Resolution – Impeachment**

Copies of the proposed General Meeting agenda were distributed and specific items were discussed, as follows:

- Mike distributed a copy of a draft resolution the ad hoc committee has been working on, noting that it was a draft and not the final copy.
- Melissa commented that the resolution needed to be posted one week before the meeting. Martin clarified that the requirement is that we post a notice that the resolution will be reviewed at the meeting a week in advance of the meeting taking place.
- Mike then noted several key points about the resolution:
  - The Vice President does not appear anywhere in the resolution, which is by design. One of the key goals of the ad hoc committee was to make this a non-political document. The case being made is to impeach the President. If the two are tied together it then appears to be a political act. The goal of impeachment is not to punish, but to defend the constitution. If the Vice President were to be impeached, it would have to be with charges that are unique to him.
  - The resolution contains no mention of the pretext of the war. The committee doesn't believe that a conviction can be gained on this point and they wanted to stick to things that are clearly violations of the law.
  - The resolution contains three fundamental points:
    - Violations of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> amendments as they relate to the surveillance issues
    - Violation of the 5<sup>th</sup> amendment – Regarding Americans detained without being charged outside of the bounds of the Constitution
    - Torture of prisoners violating international treaties
  - The focus is on hard, convictable offenses; the defense of the rule of law

- Mike requested that the board members read the resolution thoroughly and send him feedback as soon as possible. The ad hoc committee is most likely to approve a resolution very close to the draft presented.

### **Chair's Report**

- Martin spoke briefly about the upcoming meeting in Ellensburg.
- Martin attended the County Chair's meeting. He noted that the County elected to stay out of several issues, including the viaduct versus tunnel issue and the Sonics arena issue.

### **New Business**

- Consideration of democratic values as part of making business decisions
  - This is an issue that is raised regularly when handling items such as printing, hotels, etc. It came up during the recent discussion of using Yahoo vs. Google for our email lists. Martin is interested in adopting a statement of principle that adherence to democratic values is a factor in the selection process.
  - Melissa moved to accept this statement as a factor; Judith seconded the motion. Discussion followed:
    - Lynn suggested it be clarified that this is a consideration and not a requirement.
    - Brad expressed a preference for it to be an unwritten policy to "use the principle when possible" rather than have a written policy with loopholes.
    - Mike stated that he did not object to using the principle as a factor, but felt there was murkiness as to exact values used as a measure
    - Martin felt that if we have it accepted as a principle, then when someone raises it as an issue, the motion to consider it is in order. If not in place, then the point is arguably out of order. He sees it as a first step that allows us to address the more detailed issues later.
    - Diane indicated that she was against adopting the policy as she thinks it should be addressed on a case-by-case basis. She also feels that it is a given we that we already consider this principle in what we do today.
  - After discussion, Martin decided to withdraw the motion. Mike shared that he felt it would worthwhile to establish guidelines so that we don't repeat this discussion each time a purchase is undertaken.

**Decisions / Actions:** Diane volunteered to chair a committee to draft the guidelines. Judith volunteered to help. Also, given this discussion Melissa does not feel that she can fulfill the original plan to purchase the t-shirts for the parades. Mike volunteered to assist

in getting the t-shirts from a Seattle vendor that he knows meets the criteria.

- Email distribution list platform

Continuation of the past discussion about remaining with Yahoo Groups or switch to Google Groups:

- In reference to the previous discussion about democratic values as a part of our making business decisions, Ralph asked if Yahoo is a vendor to us. Melissa questioned if they were since we do not pay them. Martin noted that we use them for services. Mike pointed out that because it is publicly apparent that we use their services, it is an issue.
- The issues for consideration include: activities in China; presence of advertisements; pop ups; ease of administration; issue of conversion from one to the other
- Mike as if we could have Andrew clone entire site Yahoo site on Google and the test administrative processes. Martin explained that Andrew has already built a Google list with the Executive Board members and sent some messages. The list is set up as a moderated list. Lynn noted that she has been approving the Google messages and the administration seems easier to her.

Decisions / Actions: It was decided the board would try using the Google list more extensively for the next month for testing purposes and report back findings at the next meeting.

- Use of the Announce and Discussion Groups

There is continued confusion around what is appropriate to send to each of these email lists. Discussion included:

- Martin noted that we need to be careful about the volume of messages that are being sent to the Announce list. The original email distribution list was divided into the two lists we have now to help control this very issue.
- Brad commented that during legislative sessions, he would like to see the Announce list be broad enough to be able to send out emergency messages if emergency legislation comes up that is generally of the type we support. This would be a good avenue for raising awareness and gathering support that might be needed.
- Lynn pointed out that the problems stem from messages that include a lot of argument for or against the topic at hand.
- The purpose of the Announce list was recapped as being for announcing events, legislations we want to support, speakers, etc. Martin stated that we don't want too much redundancy or messages that cause members to begin writing back and forth. He feels that the point where too much is being sent is when people start asking to be removed because they are getting too much mail.

- It was felt that we need to limit the amount of advocacy included in the messages to prevent the list from becoming overwhelming.
  - Martin noted that some preference is given to messages from board members. For example, the LAC is a privileged group since it is their job to monitor legislation that the district supports and communicate updates and announcements about that legislation. As board members we need to monitor and provide feedback to each other if a board member's posts begin to drift from the stated purpose of the Announce list. Lynn noted that definitions of the purposes of each list have been printed in the newsletters. She will repeat this information in upcoming newsletters for a while.
- **Payment Requests**  
Requests have been received for dues payments to King County (\$600) and a sponsorship of \$50 from the Young Democrats. Decisions on these items were deferred to a future meeting as further input is desired from the Treasurer on the state of our budget.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priscilla O'Leary, Secretary  
45<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats