

45<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
July 28, 2008

Attendees: Martin Chaney, Paul Yarbrough, Duane Wentz, Rita Margolis, Jeremy York, Ken Jauch, Diane Slota, Judith Shattuck, Bob Horn, Ken Albinger, Priscilla O'Leary, Terry Thorsos, Melissa Waldie, Ralph Gorin

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Martin Chaney, Chair.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

Martin reviewed proposed agenda items. The agenda was adopted.

### **Previous Meeting Minutes**

The June 2008 board meeting minutes were approved.

### **General Meeting Agenda Review**

Martin reviewed the proposed agenda for the general meeting. Items of note and/or discussion, included:

- So far Martin has not been contacted by candidates asking to speak at the general meeting. Andrew would like to speak about some initiatives.
- Judith would like to add a report of the Platform & Resolutions Committee at some point, though it does not have to be at the August meeting. Martin will add this to the list of Committees, Officers, etc. if there is enough time.
- Meeting agenda was approved.

### **Endorsement Status and Discussion**

A recent email discussion about the endorsement process prompted further discussion around what can or should be done to improve the process.

- Jeremy reviewed the email thread that took place after the last general meeting to look for actionable suggestions.
  - Endorsement Committee Chair should be an elected position
  - Clear definition of membership and who can vote
  - Candidates who have people prepared to speak on their behalf and about opposing candidates
  - Rita added that she felt people who have actual positions within the campaigns shouldn't stay in the room.
- Martin noted that he had attended the 41<sup>st</sup> LD endorsement meeting and they have a more rigorous process. Candidates can not stay in the room. King

County has candidates present and only voting members have right to speak. He questioned why we have them leave the room and the pros and cons were discussed. These include:

- We could want them in the room to rebut what someone has said
- Some members might not be comfortable saying something against a candidate in their presence
- A question was raised about the potential impact of requiring staff to leave the room if cases where they are also district residents. Concern was expressed that this could effectively restrict them from being able to vote.
- Concerns were expressed that there appeared to be less communication of the details behind the Endorsement Committee recommendations than has been available in the past.
- There was general consensus that there needs to be a strong Endorsement Committee and it was suggested that there should be at least 5 members.
- A question was raised regarding how committee members were selected. Martin stated that volunteers were solicited. Rita indicated she had wanted to volunteer but thought all positions were filled. Martin clarified that there is no limit on the number of members for the committee.
- Judith noted that there has been another thread of recent conversation regarding how closely we look at incumbents in terms of how they fit with our values.
- Bob stated that he believes we have a strong endorsement process. He expressed strong concerns about people being allowed to be involved at the endorsement meeting who have not been involved previously in the district and their ability to potentially sway others. He feels that who votes and who is allowed to speak on endorsements is the first process question that needs to be addressed. He stated that he would like to see a rule that you have attended at least two meetings since January of the same year to be able to participate in an endorsements meeting.
- Bob volunteered to work on modifying the description of the requirements to be a voting member for presentation back to the board in the future. Martin outlined the requirements that are in place today.
  - Prior association – dues paid or attended previous meeting or caucus
  - Must be a resident, or have place of business within the district
- Ken Jauch also noted that he had previously suggested that we provide physical membership cards to members.
- Diane noted that in the past there has been information on the website and/or sent out via email a week or so before the meeting so that people can review and study before the meeting and this was missed this year. She also feels that the Chair has a great deal of control over who gets to speak and if someone from the campaign puts hand their up along with a member the Chair has a choice about who to call on.
- Ken Jauch expressed concerns about how some of the literature passed out by candidates can be misleading and cited a recent example.
- Judith Shattuck expressed concern that the Endorsement Committee should have the size and strength to cover the needs should a situation arise that one or two members get called away unexpectedly.

- Martin shared that he would like the committee to be a permanent one and the committee chair should be one of our officers. He concluded that based on the discussions others would like to see this be the case, as well.
- Ken Jauch asked if having a Sergeant At Arms or Parliamentarian might help relieve some of the issues around the flow of the meeting and take some of the pressure off the Chair.
- Terry Thorsos shared that she felt the process was more clear when committee recommendations, discussion and voting were completed for a given candidate before moving on to the next candidate. She felt that providing all the recommendations before discussion and voting made it more difficult to quickly recall the recommendations when it came time to vote. Also, having clear roles and job descriptions and a written report in advance would help make the process better.
- Duane Wentz shared his perspective as a member of the Endorsement Committee. He gave a brief overview of what the committee had planned on doing which included much of what was discussed. He also shared that the committee split up the researching of specific races and each person was to email the committee chair their reports by a specific deadline. It appears that some of the handoff did not go as planned and some of the information gathered was not shared in the meeting. He agreed that a stronger back up plan was needed.
- Martin noted that having the Endorsement Committee be well prepared in advance of the meeting would also allow time for the Chair to meet with them and work together to lay out how the meeting should run. Martin concluded that 2 specific needs identified through this discussion are better time control (timed speeches) and a permanent committee chair.
- A question was raised if we can consider a motion at a future meeting to endorse a candidate that was already considered in a previous meeting and not endorsed.
  - Martin asked how we should treat such a motion. His initial thought would be to rule that we would not consider a motion that is the same as one already considered.
  - Is it a motion to reconsider? Under Robert's Rules, the consideration is for only one meeting and it would be a separate motion.
  - It could also be asserted that there have been new developments since the last meeting (i.e. King County endorsements, or others). Martin asked if we should considered motions for candidates King County endorsed and we did not endorse. Judith indicated she is willing to introduce the topic at the general meeting as someone who was present at the King County endorsement meetings.
  - Ralph noted that if the membership wants to bring forward additional endorsements we should let their wishes be heard. Martin will include in his message to the announcement list that consideration of motions to endorse will be in order.

## **Support of Endorsed Candidates and Campaigns**

Martin reviewed a list of ways we provide tangible support to endorsed candidates and asked if there were other items that should be included on the list. He also thanked Melissa for all her work in getting information about our endorsements on the website and his thanks were echoed by everyone.

- Judith suggested we invite all the endorsed candidates to our picnic
- Concern was expressed about providing PCO level access to the records, which includes update capability. Priscilla will research if read only access can be given.

## **Summer Picnic Update**

- Judith passed around a draft copy of a flyer for the picnic and the search for good raffle items was discussed. Terry will check with Matt about his place on Camano Island.
- Judith asked how things went with having the baby donkeys at Derby Days. Rita shared that it was really great to have them there. Terry noted that they had opportunities for people to get pictures with both the baby donkeys and a 6' cutout of Obama, both of which were quite popular. Judith will check with Judy Lipton about the possibility of having the baby donkeys at the picnic.
- It was agreed that we would provide the meat and vegan burgers and have attendees bring side dishes, as was done last year.
- Judith suggested getting enough of the flyers printed to include them with the literature drops.
- Judith is drafting a letter to all endorsed candidates to invite them to the picnic.
- We will be at a different shelter in the park than we were at last year.
- Paul and Rita volunteered to purchase the meat, vegan burgers, and pop from Costco. Bob to give input on the quantities.
- Melissa will put the flyer on the web.
- Terry suggested that the extra water we have in storage from the LD caucus be offered to our candidates (Roger/Larry/Darcy) for their canvassing events. All agreed.

## **Eastside Dinner**

- The dinner will be on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Newcastle Golf Course. Christine Gregoire will be the keynote speaker.
- There will be a planning meeting tomorrow – volunteers are welcome! Aileen Carter and Paul Quaintance are working on the committee. Aileen will be the Treasurer this year.
- Martin proposed we have at least one table for each legislator / candidate and a Chair's table. If every district does this, the event will be a success.
- Price per ticket is likely to be around \$100. The final decision is not yet firm, but it will be in this ballpark. This will price some out of being able to go. If some want to donate towards sponsoring the district table, we can sponsor some of our volunteers who can't afford tickets on their own.

- Jeremy offered to solicit the Obama volunteers for a possible table or more, and possibly other subsidies.

### **PCO Write-In Drive**

- In previous years there was a requirement that you had to get at least 10% of the Democratic vote in your precinct. With the change to the Top 2 primary, the PCOs are the only party vote on the ballot.
- The elections department has ruled that the 10% requirement is now irrelevant. This means on your ballot you only need to have one vote to win, however the name must be spelled exactly as the person is registered for it to count.
- King County is encouraging people to file as a write-in candidate. The advantage is that you can designate the way you think it is acceptable for people to write your name and any reasonable approximation of that name will count for you.
- The process to file is a lot like the form used to file to become a PCO. Cost is \$1. The deadline is 4:30 pm the day before the election (8/18).

### **Voter Identification Drive, Phone Banking, and Canvassing**

- Ken Albinger spoke about the need motivate ourselves and our fellow PCOs to do literature drops this next week. Voter ID has not produced the desired results. Instructions have been sent out and literature has been distributed to about 1/3 of the PCOs.
- It was noted that there are some corrections needed on the Slim Jim and these were reviewed. The need to use a union printer was also discussed.
- It was noted that the Obama campaign is organizing geographical doorbelling that overlaps our district (coordinated campaign). Next week they will be handing out log-ins for VoteBuilder.
- Mentors will be calling over the next couple of days to get a push for next week.
- Jeremy will bring Obama items to general meeting that people can buy.
- Martin will get the district materials (buttons, bumper stickers, etc) from Karen to distribute at the meeting.

### **Other Committee, Officer, and Representatives Reports**

- No reports offered.

### **Old Business**

- None for this meeting.

### **New Business**

- None for this meeting.

**Good of the Order**

- None for this meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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