

45th Legislative District Democrats
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2007

Attendees: Martin Chaney, Priscilla O'Leary, Kris Rubenaker, Paul Yarbrough, Ralph Gorin, Terry Linkletter, Bob Horn, Terry Thorsos, Mike Burner, Diane Slota, Andrew Villeneuve, Dwight Baker

Guest: Susan Boundy-Sanders

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Martin Chaney, Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda

Martin distributed copies of the proposed agenda. The agenda was reviewed and adopted.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The August 2007 Executive Board meeting minutes were approved.

General Meeting Agenda Review

Specific items discussed that relate to the General Meeting agenda include:

- **Guest Speaker**
 - There is currently no guest speaker. Martin asked if we should try to invite someone or concentrate on the election.
 - Andrew felt we should use this time to talk to PCOs about walking the precincts since it will be our last meeting before the election.
 - It was suggested we might use part of the time to do some voter file training. Bob will talk to Tom to see if he has time to prepare a 30 minute training presentation for the general meeting.

- **Caucus Preparations Do we want to tell people about caucus preparations at GM?**
 - Martin asked if we want to discuss the caucus preparations separately at the General Meeting or would it be better to cover it in a committee report.
 - It was noted that we should have some tentative dates for training, but this can be covered in a committee report.
 - Ralph suggested encouraging people to mention the caucus whenever they are talking to friends, family, colleagues, etc. They should encourage attendance regardless if the person is in your precinct or not.
 - Bob shared that the PCOs are canvassing prior caucus attendees to help identify the volunteers we need to help run the caucuses.

Caucus Preparation Status – Terry Thorsos

- Terry Thorsos reported the committee has been working on aligning the list of those who volunteered with the needs for each of the precinct caucus locations. The list Gary provided of those who signed up included additional people the committee had not previously identified.
- Terry Linkletter has written checks for around \$800 so far. This is mostly covering reservations for schools.
- We will be using two spaces at Juanita High School, plus 18 other sites we've identified. Terry reviewed anticipated expenses associated with those sites. Will have to have 2 schools in the Snoqualmie Valley. In terms of rent and custodial fees, it looks like around \$2400 beyond what has already been spent. It might be possible to consolidate some sites further, but we would be risking having too many attendees at one site. The risk is further complicated by the fact that we don't know how Super Tuesday will impact attendance.
- The question was raised if we will be doing a mailing similar to the one we did in 2006. That mailing was about 1600 pieces at a cost of around \$.50 per piece. The mailing went to previous caucus attendees.
- Martin asked if there were any decisions that needed to be made tonight. Terry Thorsos asked for clarification on how important it is to keep the caucuses under the maximum size previously defined. Martin responded that he would like to see us have more sites, but only if we can be sure we have the leadership to run them. He is not inclined to reduce the number of sites to save money. There was general agreement on this point.

Membership / Volunteer Recruitment Letters – Priscilla O'Leary

- Priscilla presented the results of the mailing test that was done in the Big Bend and Welcome Lake precincts. Net revenues were slightly more than \$100 and several new volunteers were identified.
- To undertake this for the entire district would be resource intensive. Priscilla presented a proposal to target a few precincts each month and doing ongoing mailings. The advantages include continuing to gain new members and gathering more volunteers for the caucuses and to help process more mailings. It also spreads the cost of creating and sending the mailings over time so that it becomes self funding.
- To start off, six precincts have been identified in areas where we appear to have less caucus volunteers. Using a criterion that combines known democrats who frequently and consistently vote, a base list was put together for a mailing of around 250. Priscilla proposed that we prepare this mailing in time for the general election. To help get it done quickly, she suggested asking members to come early to the General Meeting and help prepare the mailing.
- Terry Thorsos suggested we consider doing few precincts and opening the criteria to allow for more "c" level voters to be included. Given the short time frame, it was decided we would do one more round with the current criteria and try expanding it for a November mailing.

- As this mailing next mailing would be timed with the general election, Priscilla asked to get a copy of the 45th LD Slim Jim information so that it could be reprinted on regular size paper and included with the mailing. Martin has a copy of the primary Slim Jim, but it needs to be updated with the endorsements for the general election.
- Ralph also suggested that for future mailings we consider high performing precincts where we have a mismatch between performance and the number of graded voters.
- The board approved moving forward with the mailings.

Greeting Committee for General Meetings – Kathleen Reynolds

- Kathleen Reynolds sent a proposal to Martin that we have a Greeting Committee to greet new people at our meetings. The idea is to chat with them and find out more about what they are interested in and what they are willing to do.
- The board discussed the proposal. Terry Linkletter noted that he thought that Kathleen's instincts would be perfect for this role. Bob Horn stated that everyone on the Executive Committee should naturally be a part of this committee.
- Kathleen had asked Martin to identify any specific tasks the committee should take on. Priscilla noted that it would be beneficial to have those greeting new people verify that they have signed in appropriately so that we can be sure to get them added to our database.

Woodinville Races – endorsements and support

- Martin noted that he has received multiple contacts about the Woodinville City Council races.
- There are currently three positions for which candidates are running. These are non-partisan races.
- He introduced Susan Boundy-Sanders, who is running for the 6th position on the Woodinville City Council. She shared the following:
 - Susan first got involved in city politics over land use.
 - Woodinville has many involved who have been in politics since formation in 1993. She believes they now tend to just go along with staff recommendations. She is concerned that they side too much with developers and exceptions often get approved that risk citizens' safety and put the environment at risk.
- Her past political involvement includes: Signature gather for I-937, contributor to Cantwell, Murray, Clinton, Obama, and Richardson campaigns.
- She is on the board of Plymouth Healing Communities – The help with transitional assistance for those who have been treated for mental illness. They work with Harborview and help provide transitional housing, as well as other assistance in obtaining permanent housing, jobs, etc.

- While the positions are non-partisan, Woodinville has evolved into what is essentially two voting blocks. The current, established group are those who vote according to staff recommendation (her opponent, Liz Aspen, is part of this group) and is a more passive commission. The new voting block is more of a mindset of “throw the bums out” and is seen as the opposition voting block. This group does not vote as unified as the establishment block.
- Susan stated that her goal in city panels and commissions has been a lot more active. Her background as a geologist gives her skills to research and keep the decisions honest.
- Q&A:
 - Q: Would you characterize yourself as one of the new block?
A: Yes, in that she is aligned with sticking up for citizens, but not aligned with them on all issues.
 - Q: How do you feel about Tent City?
A: Being involved in homeless advocacy, she is appalled at how Tent City has been handled in Woodinville in the past. She feels bad for the Tent City folks because she doesn't think services in Woodinville are the best, but she would welcome them back if they want to come. However, she would recommend a better area of Woodinville to locate in so that there is more access to the services they need.
 - Q: What other organizations have you been involved with? How long have you been in Woodinville?
A: She's been in Woodinville for 10 years. She has been on the board of Plymouth Healing Communities since December. She has also been involved in various neighborhood groups in Woodinville. She has used her background as geologist to add her voice in where new developments shouldn't be built to avoid land slide risks, etc.
- Martin noted that she has been endorsed by Eric Oemig and Roger Goodman. Her opponent has been endorsed by Joe Leonard.
- The board discussed the endorsement process. The Endorsement Committee will not be able to meeting complete interviews between now and the General Meeting, so they will not be able to provide any recommendation. This does not preclude endorsement if a motion is made and voted on during the meeting.
- Susan will provide her answers to the King County questionnaire and we will post it on the website.
- Susan excused herself from the meeting at this time.

Discussion of other Woodinville matters

- Ralph and Martin both reported having received emails from former member of Jay Inslee's staff concerning the races in Woodinville and requesting actions from the 45th Legislative District. After discussion of the request that was made, it was the general consensus of the board that we

stand by our policy of only supporting candidates who specifically ask for our support and who the members vote to support. Martin will follow up directly with the requestor.

Endorsement Recommendations for October Meeting

- Andrew reported that the committee does have recommendations for this month's meeting.
 - They are recommending a yes position on the first constitutional amendment – the “rainy day fund” that was requested by the Governor.
 - They are recommending a yes position on investment funds for higher education. This was requested by WSU in the legislature.
 - They recommend discussion around inmate labor. The committee is not taking a position, but will share the positives and negatives.
- They did not discuss the King County measure. Andrew feels the committee would probably have recommended a yes vote.
- The recommendations will be posted to the website.
- They did not discuss the King County 6th District Council race and will not have time to do so before the meeting. If members want to put forward a motion at the meeting they are free to do so without recommendations from the committee.

Meet and Greet for Endorsed Candidates

- Martin shared that Judith Shattuck is proposing to have a meet and greet event for our endorsed candidates. This would potentially include Jessica Greenway, Gael Tarleton, Alec Fisker and Bill Sherman. She would like to hold it in south Kirkland. It would be an opportunity for people to come and meet the candidates.
- She is looking for a couple of people who might help her organize the event and she would like it to be supported by the 45th LD. She believes there are venues she could get for around \$75 and thinks they ought to be able to collect enough to cover the cost.
- The question was raised if this would be a joint effort between the 45th and 48th LDs, given that the 45th LD does not cover south Kirkland.
- Concerns were expressed that the date is not yet set and the candidate's schedules are already very full. It is uncertain that they would all be able to be free at the same date and time for such an event.
- It was felt that it would be unlikely the event would raise funds to cover the costs, as generally candidates are collecting donations at these events. If the 45th LD were to provide funds for the event, it would most likely be in lieu of additional campaign donations.
- Ralph made a motion to fund \$100 for this event on behalf of the 45th LDs as our donation. Andrew seconded the motion.

VOTE: Passed

- At this point, it is unlikely that the 45th LD has volunteers with the time to give to this effort. The board recommends approaching the candidates to get assistance from their staff members since they will be the beneficiaries of any contributions raised. It is also recommended that Judith approach the 48th LD to help with sponsorship and, possibly, volunteers.

2007 Campaign Activities – Bob Horn

- Paul Yarbrough shared that the PCO Committee met at Bob’s house and is scheduling a program to recruit help for the caucuses. They are contacting previous caucus attendees.
- A question was raised if we could boxes of campaign literature to hand out to the PCOs at this month’s meeting. Bob noted that it seems the responsibility for the Slim Jim has fallen to Martin, but we really need a volunteer to update it and get it printed. The printer we use is in Seattle. Mike Burner volunteered to pick them up from the printer when they are ready. Diane Slota offered to help get it updated. Suggestions for updates include adding a line for “save the date” for the caucus and mentioning that additional endorsements may be available on website, along with providing the website address.
- Terry Thorsos and Paul Yarbrough volunteered to call the campaigned for our endorsed candidates to get their literature. Mike Burner suggested also asking them for a two sentence statement of why voters should choose them. These statements could then be compiled into talking points for the PCOs. Terry and Paul will ask for 500 copies for those in city races, and 1,500 copies for county races and measures. Bob Horn volunteered to contact Gael Tarleton for literature.

Requests for Additional Campaign Donations

- Martin shared that he was contacted by Gael Tarleton asking our district to demonstrate their support by sending an additional contribution. Gael shared that she would find it quite acceptable if we were to send to contributions to Alec Fiskien and Bill Sherman, as well. The district gave them each \$100 before the primary.
- Discussion followed around questions about what others have done and if we have the funds available in the budget. Terry Linkletter noted that we have not spent everything that was budgeted for this election cycle, but our revenues are also not on track to the budget.
- A motion was made and seconded that we donate \$100 to each of the three candidates.

VOTE: Passed, unanimously

Update on Precinct Walking Information Project – Dwight Baker

- Dwight recapped the project background as provided at the previous month's meeting. (Further detail available in the August, 2007 Executive Board Meeting Minutes.)
- He showed copies of the color maps printed from the King County system. These are available for \$0.15 each and can be printed with various layers of data.
- These could be useful for PCOs and he is proposing a three PCO pilot project to test the maps. Dwight, Ken Albinger, and Duane Wentz will use their precincts for the pilot.
- He would like support if they develop all the procedures and publish their recommendations. He is also willing to go down to the county to get the maps.
- Diane Slota noted that this could be good for rural areas that don't have good mapping.

Voter File Access Questions

- Martin received a call from Dave Asher who was upset to discover that the state party offices had sold access to state voter file to a candidate the district declined to endorse.
- Martin requested clarification from Dwight Peltz and received a response sharing the state party's current policy, which is to sell access to the state voter file to any political candidate in a non-partisan race. If the policy is contested, it is likely the party would choose to not sell the data to any candidate causing a loss of revenue.
- Priscilla noted that we do not know the level of detail the state is providing to the candidates. Given the way the system is set up by "campaigns," it is possible that they receive state level data but not specific data input by a group such as the legislative district. Priscilla will reach out through the Regional Data Expert group to see if further clarification can be obtained.

Tribute to Barbara Eickoff – Lynn Norwood

- Lynn Norwood is planning a tribute to Barbara Eickoff in the next newsletter. Barbara is a long standing member who will be leaving the district. Anyone who would like to provide stories, background, or help in some other way should contact Lynn.

Other Committee, Officers, and Representatives Reports

- Terry Linkletter gave a brief Treasurer's update, including current balances and expenses.

Old Business

- Due to time constraints no topics were discussed.

New Business

- Due to time constraints no topics were discussed.

Good of the Order

- Due to time constraints no topics were discussed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. to allow time to reset the room per the library's requirements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priscilla O'Leary, Secretary
45th Legislative District Democrats