

45<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats  
General Meeting Minutes  
May 2, 2007

### **Social Hour**

An informal social hour was held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### **Call to Order and Flag Salute**

The meeting was called to order by Martin Chaney, Chair, at 7:01 p.m. and commenced with the flag salute led by Bob Osrowske.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted by show of hands.

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the last month's meeting, previously posted on the website for review and advertised in the Web News Update, were adopted by a show of hands.

### **Reports by Elected Officials and Candidates (as they may be present)**

- **Alec Fisken**

- Commissioner Fisken is an incumbent up for reelection as Port Commissioner
- The Port Commission includes all of King County and is governed by a 5 person commission. The commissioners are elected at large to 5 year terms.
- Commissioner Fisken shared his view that current problems with the commission include the former Executive Director's retirement pay, the fact that \$68 million in taxes is collected from all of King County when the port should be generating revenue, and environmental issues with the seaport and airport when there are technical solutions available.
- There is a new Executive Director who brings a great deal of background and experience to the job.
- Commissioner Fisken's goal is to have a commission who can restore credibility, wean the system away from levies and generate revenue.
- He is asking for our support and endorsement.
- Q&A:
  - A question was asked about opening up information so that people can know what is going on with the commission.

Alec advised that a resolution was passed at the last meeting to record future executive meetings.

- Commissioner Fisker was asked to explain why taxpayers are paying support for the port now and what needs to change. He provided background about the seaport and economic development. He noted that there are practices he feels can be changed.
- A question was raised if information from the executive meetings would be on the internet or if it would need to be requested. He advised that is not yet available on the internet but he expects it to be soon.

- **Gael Tarleton**

- Running for Port Commission against Bob Edwards
- Ms. Tarleton believes it is time to change what is happening at our port. There is a need to restore confidence in an institution that has such an impact on all of us and that the current situation absolutely is indefensible. There are many issues that need to be tackled.
- Ms. Tarleton is a long time expert in national security and many other areas. She is helping the University of Washington faculty to solve issues.
- Ms. Tarleton has experience working in both the private and public sectors. She is from Massachusetts and has lived in the Seattle area for 17 years. She has many endorsements including Jack Jolley, the Women's Political Caucus, and others.
- Q&A:
  - A question was asked about her opinion of the Pat Davis recall. Ms. Tarleton advised that she feels it was completely justified. She wants a responsive ethics investigation, not a white wash.
  - Ms. Tarleton was asked if she thought port commissioners should receive full time pay for a part time job. She responded that if they fulfill a full time job they should be paid accordingly, but she is not yet convinced the job is full time.
  - When questioned about business meetings being held with no records being kept, Ms. Tarleton advised that she feels the laws in this area need to be reexamined.

- **Jim Robinson**

- Councilman Robinson has been on the city council for almost 16 years and is now running for Mayor of Redmond. He has been on a variety of committees, is active in the National League of Cities, and has lobbied in Olympia. His experience with Boeing includes working on pricing and contract negotiations. He has two master degrees.

- Key issues include having a transparent government and changing the way we live to support environmental needs.
- Councilman Robinson cited the budget as a big issue. If Redmond is going to pay for itself it has to look at entire budget structure.
- He also supports work to redo the Hartman pool.
- Q&A:
  - A question was raised regarding delays experienced for years in building a new fire station and how the city could spend \$40 million for a new city hall but could not afford a new fire station. Councilman Robinson noted that he did not support the building of the new city hall.
  - In responding to a question about his ideas for cutting costs and overhead, Councilman Robinson noted that the general fund has been flat since almost 2000, meaning that there have, in fact, been cuts made. He feels it is popular to say that government is too heavy and wasteful. He believes Redmond can improve and will be forced to so with less money. In Redmond, business taxes are half of what is collected in Bellevue. If growth is going to pay for itself and stop subsidizing major corporations, we need to look at our prosperity and reinvest back into the community.

- **Nancy Whitten**

- Councilwoman Whitten is currently on the Sammamish City Council and is seeking reelection.
- Most of Sammamish is in the 5<sup>th</sup> District, but a portion is in the 45<sup>th</sup> District.
- Councilwoman Whitten received endorsement from the 45<sup>th</sup> District 4 years ago and hopes to receive it again.
- Sammamish is a bedroom community. They are currently trying to build a town center and are experiencing growth issues. They are working towards a more defined city identity and improving civic amenities.
- Major areas of concentration: Roads, affordable housing, environment
- Councilwoman Whitten noted that there has been an excessive increase in assessed valuation and they currently don't have affordable housing.
- Q&A:
  - In responding to a concern expressed about the amount of destructive behavior by teenagers, Councilwoman Whitten shared that this is a very high priority for everyone and that the police have taken it very seriously.

- **Michelle Petitti**

- Councilwoman Petitti has served on the Sammamish City Council for 6 years and is seeking reelection. She served as the mayor last year. She also works for Friends of Youth in Redmond.
  - Councilwoman Petitti noted the opening of a new city hall last summer with room to grow. Included was the building of a 20 acre park. They also a preferred alternative for a new town center.
  - Key topics include: Business growth and affordable houses
  - She noted that the council has a great partnership with school districts and recent efforts resulted in improved campuses at high schools, including improved all-hour lighting and AstroTurf.
  - She has been involved with a big focus on working with teens. A new skate park was opened in front of City Hall. It has been open for about a year with out incident. One third of the population of Sammamish is under 18. Important partnerships include the YMCA and Boys & Girls Clubs
- **Brian Conlin**
    - Kicked off his campaign last Saturday for Redmond City Council
    - Mr. Conlin is a Navy veteran and has volunteered in the community for many years. His wife's family has been in the Redmond area since the late 1800's.
    - Mr. Conlin shared that he decided to run for the council position because he wants to ensure that Redmond remains a place where his 2 daughters want to come back to live and work when they are grown. He believes there is phenomenal opportunity for growth and professional opportunities.
    - He listed the challenges he sees as: transportation, business growth, and density in downtown. He wants to help solve those problems and make Redmond a place his daughters want to come back to live.
- **Kristy Sullivan**
    - Ms. Sullivan is the President of the Snoqualmie Valley School Board, which includes Ames Lake and two other precincts in the 45<sup>th</sup> District. She is requesting endorsement of a bond initiative up for vote this month.
    - Ms. Sullivan shared the following statistics about the school district:
      - 7% growth last year
      - 6 ½% growth this year
      - It took 5 years to build a new high school, which is already bursting at the seams
      - The district is in need of another elementary school. A new school recently added is already full and using portables.
    - There was a recent bond issue that passed at 58%, but a 60% supermajority is required.

- Additional information can be found at:  
<http://esddesign.snoqualmie.k12.wa.us/districtinfo/bondprojects/taxpayer.asp>
- **Penny Sweet**
  - Ms. Sweet, married to Representative Larry Springer, is running for Kirkland City Council. Ms. Sweet has been very involved in the City of Kirkland waterfront area and helped reinvent the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities for the City of Kirkland. She has been a business owner for 20 years.
  - Ms. Sweet shared that she has wanted to serve for a long time and it has been in her plans once she retired. She believes grassroots at home is where you can have the most impact. She explained that she has chosen this time to learn because there are those on the council from who she would like to learn.
  - Key issues Ms. Sweet highlighted: economic vitality of the community; affordable housing; environment; annexation.
  - Ms. Sweet would appreciate endorsement of 45<sup>th</sup> District
  - Q&A:
    - When asked who on the council she would like to learn from, Ms. Sweet identified Mary-Alyce Burleigh.
- **DAVE ASHER**  
Martin acknowledged the presence of Dave Asher, Kirkland City Council Member, who declined to speak.
- **ROB DOLIN**
  - Mr. Dolin is a local PCO supporting the Barrack Obama campaign. He is also a local PCO.
  - Mr. Dolin shared that he grew up in Illinois and watched Senator Obama's campaigns and career when he lived there.
  - Senator Obama will be coming to town on 6/2 and there will be a large rally at Quest Field or the event center. There will also be a large donor fundraiser at the Westin in downtown Seattle.
  - Mr. Dolin distributed bumper stickers and pins. He suggested accessing [www.obama08-wa.com](http://www.obama08-wa.com) to find ways to get involved in local campaign activities.
- **RICHARD COLE**
  - Mr. Cole is a current Redmond City Council Member up for reelection. He retired 3 years ago and is able to spend more day time on city events, etc. He has been a member of the 45<sup>th</sup> District since 1979.
  - Mr. Cole noted that the City of Redmond has had some fiscal challenges with revenues not growing as fast as costs. In his search for a different way, he discovered the book "Priorities of

Government” and shared it with his fellow council members. He has convinced the council to start looking at a different way of budgeting and involve the public more. These efforts will begin in January.

### **Legislative Session Report - Eric Oemig, Roger Goodman and Larry Springer Larry Springer**

Larry distributed handouts showing the high points of the 2007 legislative session. He then reviewed many of these areas he felt would be of interest to our members. This included:

- K12 education – over \$1 billion in funding into K12
- Simple Majority – Thanks to the new majority in the Senate, the simple majority legislation passed
- Transportation – Larry was on this committee for first time. As always, there were some wins and some losses in this area.
- Viaduct – This topic tended to dominate conversation during this session. The state legislature was been clear on their position. As it would take \$2.5 billion to replace the viaduct, the state would fund that much. If the City of Seattle wants more for another option, they need to come up with the difference. Given the delays, the state allocated money to start 6 projects with the viaduct at the north and south ends. These projects will need to be done regardless of final decisions on how to replace the viaduct.
- 520 Bridge – Progress was made. An agreement was reached on a six lane configuration with additional capacity on the pontoons. Money was appropriated to get a mediator for impacts on houses on the west end. Between state and federal funding, there is almost \$1 billion committed. A ballot initiative is expected to raise an additional \$1.2 billion, while another \$1 billion will come from bridge tolls.
- Maury Island – Larry was on the Select Committee on Puget Sound. The Washington Environmental Council had 4 major priorities – PDBE ban; Washington wildlife & recreation fund increased; pass strict emission standards; create Puget Sound recovery governance program. All four of these priorities were addressed. The Maury Island issue got wrapped up in Puget Sound issue. The position taken by the committee was that felt it would be inappropriate pass legislation designed to circumvent the on ongoing permitting process that has been underway for 10 years.
- Q&A:
  - Melissa Waldie thanked Larry for being so forthcoming and for his quick responses to questions. She asked him to clarify why eminent domain could not be used in the case of Maury Island. Larry explained that eminent domain is subject to many restrictions. In this case the connection between eminent domain and passing a law to block a legitimate ongoing permitting process are same thing, but the distinction is that the permitting process is a process established by federal, state and county governments. Agencies

have already said what must be done to get the necessary permit. What would be the reason to shortcut this process?

- Judith Shattuck asked if there was a case to be made for the greater environmental good. Larry responded that there is no question the environment is important, but a better understanding of the causes of the environmental impacts is needed. He cited an example of concerns over the threat to the health of the eel grass. The greatest threat to eel grass is direct discharge of septic systems and septic systems are used by over 50% of the houses on Maury Island. The septic problem is not being talked about. Puget Sound Partnership is focusing on that very issue.

### **Eric Oemig:**

Eric shared that he felt it was a wonderful pleasure to be part of solutions in Olympia during his first session and he commented on the following:

- Simple Majority – The freshman Senators took a count of their votes as compared to those they replaced and how they would have voted. This legislation would not have passed without the new Senators.
- Sonics stadium – This was simply a bad deal and they had to let it go.
- Constituent issues – Eric worked on a variety of issues that came to him from constituents including:
  - A pedophile that had a website advertising playgrounds to meet little girls. He worked with the police, but the website was protected by 1<sup>st</sup> amendment rights. They went to the ISP who pulled the website after reviewing it. He is now working on legislation to support ways of shutting down offensive sites.
- Vaccines – Eric was under the impression that the use of mercury was banned, but there was legislation trying to expand the use of it. Through research, he found there was no law banning the use of mercury. He worked on amendments to require full disclosure, but the amendment was removed by the House. He will be working over the summer on better legislation.
- Educational Performance Data – Using his experience with Microsoft as a performance engineer, Eric tried to determine a way to measure the budget and how to get best use of education dollars. He could not get answers to questions about performance data. Eric worked to pass legislation to put measures in place and legislation was passed to test the process through measurement of two districts at the finest level of detail with the expectation it will later be rolled out statewide.
- Impeachment Investigation – Eric's efforts in this area were well publicized. The topic first came up during his campaign as a question from Judith Shattuck about the Jefferson rules. Impeachment was an issue that many politicians didn't want to touch. There was more support behind the scenes that was willing to be made public.

### **Roger Goodman**

- Vaccines – Roger noted that when the emergency vaccine bill came to the House for a vote it was 97-1 and he was the one against it because he noted the same issue as Eric had previously mentioned.
- Roger served as Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Committee. He was very proud to have supported the Domestic Partnership bill. There are over 1,000 rights afforded to conventionally married couples. The Domestic Partnership bill is only a start covering some of the basic rights.
- Definition of Disability – Last year Judge Jim Johnson, in case before the state Supreme Court dealing with definition of disability, ruled that the definition of disability for the State of Washington was the same as the federal ADA definition. The ADA definition is significantly narrower than the previous state definition. This ruling has prevented people from being able to get to point of determining if they have been discriminated against. The new bill makes a clear definition for state, effectively restoring law to protect our most vulnerable citizens.
- Health Care – Thanks to new legislation, Washington is going to be first state in country where every child has health care. Mental health care availability is also increased.
- Education – Bonus program for teachers who get their national certification.
- Animal Cruelty bill – It is now a gross misdemeanor to abandon an animal.
- Public Safety Committee – New legislation gets tough on auto theft. If someone steals 2 cars go to jail. If they steal 3 cars they go to prison. To pay for the costs of this program, the fee for speeding tickets will go up.
- Emergency Preparedness – We need to be more prepared. The December 14, 2006 windstorm acts as a test case. Roger will be working to develop legislation in this area over the interim with two focuses on availability of food, gasoline, and shelters. We need to be more prepared at all levels.
- Court System – Another area of concentration for Roger is fixing the court system. District courts and municipal courts are at odds. There are jurisdiction questions and efficiency questions. A series of meetings are needed to define what needs to be done and what studies are needed.
- Sex Education – The legislature passed a very good bill that requires any sex education programs put in place by school districts to be based on facts. Abstinence is a worthy goal, but you have to have back up strategy. We need to give kids honest and complete information.
- Q&A:
  - Andrew Villeneuve asked about the Homeowner's Bill of Rights – This legislation did not make it to the House this session. Roger strongly supported it. The majority of the testimony was against the bill and there was a great deal of pressure from lobbyists, etc. It was voted out of committee with different lengths of warranties on a variety of defects. To Roger's disappointment, leadership of the House didn't let it through.

- Dave Asher noted that in terms of working effectively to get things done, Roger's reputation is as one of the most effective freshman in the legislature.
- Melissa Waldie asked about campaign financing legislation. Roger acknowledged this was a difficult issue. Eric noted that it will probably have to happen by initiative and not by the legislature.

### **Endorsements and Resolutions**

Kathleen Reynolds presented the recommendations for early endorsement from the Endorsements Committee. She reviewed the pros, cons and recommendation that have been posted on the website.

- **Alec Fiskien, Port of Seattle**
  - A motion was made and seconded to endorse Alec Fiskien.  
**VOTE: PASSED, unanimous**
- **No on I-25**
  - A motion was made and seconded to endorse a "No" position on I-25.  
**VOTE: PASSED, unanimous**
- **Snoqualmie Valley Bond Issue**

Martin introduced the possibility of making an endorsement on this issue due to the fact that it is our only chance to consider it before the May 15<sup>th</sup> special election. He acknowledged that the notice of this consideration was not within the normal window and ruled that if anyone objected to considering the endorsement, we would not take it up. There were no objections voiced.

  - A motion was made and seconded to endorse the passage of this bond issue.
  - Bob Osrowske asked if members could vote if they don't live within the school district. Martin advised it was a matter for the legislative district and all members could vote.  
**VOTE: PASSED, unanimous**

### **Short Topics**

- Ellen Hanly spoke about an email she received suggesting that to protest the increasing cost of gas that no one should buy gas on May 15<sup>th</sup> as a way to protest.
- Judith Shattuck referenced the President's veto of legislation that included time limits on the war. She shared that tomorrow morning at 7:00 a.m. there would be demonstrations on overpasses throughout the Seattle area. The three locations on the Eastside are: Kirkland – 100<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian overpass; Bellevue – I405 & N.E. 8<sup>th</sup>; I520 at the last exit before going across bridge at the East 92<sup>nd</sup> overpass.

- Dee Carrel – Eastside Democratic Women are meeting this Saturday at the library administration building for King County in Issaquah. The meeting is at noon. They are still in the process of organizing.
- Wayne Farrer shared his belief that we all have to start screaming about gas prices.
- Andrew reminded everyone to be sure and report signature gathering through the [www.permanentdefense.org](http://www.permanentdefense.org) website.

### **PCO Appointments**

Martin introduced one candidate for appointment as PCO for SAM 45-2963, Celia Wu, and invited her to speak.

- Celia lives in Sammamish and works at Microsoft. She is the mother of 4 and a democrat. She lived in Hong Kong for 14 years and voted via absentee ballots during that time.
- Brad Larssen made a motion to appoint Celia and the motion was seconded.

**VOTE: PASSED, unanimous**

### **Chair's Report**

- Duvall Daze Signup
  - Martin reminded everyone that the Duvall Daze is coming upon June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Norm Puri and Lynn Norwood have been working hard to get everything organized.
  - The Rice's have agreed to help in the organizing.
  - Volunteers are needed to help staff the booth from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bubbles and temporary tattoos will be available for the kids.
  - Flyers were made available at the back table.
  - Parade is at 11:00 a.m. Everyone should plan to gather at 10:30 a.m.
  - Details will be published on the website

### **Committee, Officer, and Representatives Report**

Due to time constraints, most Committee, Officer and Representative reports will be made in writing and published on the website.

- **Washington State Democrats Committee Report**
  - Ralph Gorin noted two significant items from the recent WSDCC meeting in Bellingham last Saturday.
    1. In the vote to choose between a primary or caucuses for delegate selection, the vote was for caucuses
    2. King County and Spokane were vying to host the 2008 state convention – Spokane won the vote.

### **Old Business**

Deferred due to time constraints

**New Business**

Deferred due to time constraints

**Good of the Order**

- Diane Slota reminded everyone that the North Lake Unitarian Church in Kirkland will be hosting a showing of the movie “The Iron Wall”
- Terry Thorsos reminded everyone of the multicultural fair this Saturday

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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