

45<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats  
General Meeting Minutes  
September 5, 2007

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

The meeting was called to order by Martin Chaney, Chair, at 7:02 p.m. and commenced with the flag salute led by Andrew Villeneuve.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted by a show of hands.

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

The minutes of the last month's meeting, previously posted on the website for review, were adopted by a show of hands.

### **In Memorium**

Ralph Gorin shared memories of Karen Marchioro and some impressions from her memorial service earlier in the afternoon. This was followed by a moment of silence in her memory.

### **Guest Speaker – Dwight Pelz, Washington State Democratic Party Chair**

Topic: Using the caucuses to build the party organizations and improve Democratic performance in 2008

- Dwight opened by congratulating the 45<sup>th</sup> Legislative District on the 2006 victories and being a rock solid blue political district
- Dwight also acknowledged Rodney Tom's announcement he was withdrawing from the race for the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative position, noting that it both demonstrated class and was a decision that was made for the good of the party.
- Dwight spoke about the important work coming up. Most opportunities exist in the 2 and 4 year cycles election cycles. The presidential cycle get the most attention. It presents a great opportunity to build the party.
- Dwight then presented an overview of the Chair's Strategy Conference held in Ellensburg in March. At the conference he laid out a challenge from the Chair to approximately 100-120 people. Highlights of his presentation included:
  - Washington is a presidential caucus state. It is our belief that the caucuses have the ability to build our party and raise the bar.
  - Thousands attend the caucuses, yet that dwindles to only a handful of new faces in our meetings by March or April.
  - We must use caucuses as a tool to recruit volunteers and then involve them as activists. We can build the party if we conduct highly organized, competent, calm, friendly caucuses, and if we

ask participants at those caucuses to volunteer to perform concrete tasks.

- Dwight then shared a series of data points, as well as goals, strategies, and tactics for realizing the challenge during the upcoming caucuses.
- Q&A:
  - Aileen Carter asked about any plans the state organization might have to help advertise the caucuses. Dwight discussed the potential impacts of the non-binding primary and Super Tuesday voting in other states. He indicated that these would factor into plans for publicity. He also noted that Sam Reed has said there will be explanatory language with the primary ballots that are mailed.
  - Rita Margolies asked about having more availability of literature, yard signs, etc. for campaigns. Dwight explained that the campaigns make the decisions regarding these materials but the state will do what they can to get signs out across the state if the campaigns decide to print them.
  - Diane Slota asked about improvements to the caucus materials, including check lists on the precinct envelopes and shared that these types of preparations would be a tremendous help to improving the organization of the caucuses. Dwight encouraged emailing improvements suggestions to Jaxon Ravens. He also noted that a training video and materials for the caucuses would be provided.
  - Gary Gelow asked if there are plans to support the 8<sup>th</sup> CD race similar to the state organization's support of the governor's race. Dwight explained some of the logistics of the campaigns and their funding.
  - Kris Rubenaker asked about why Washington is having a non-binding primary and the costs associated with it. Dwight shared some of the background and negotiations that took place around the setting of the primary, as well as some of the pros and cons of having it.
  - Inge Theissen shared concerns that there needs to be a educational process to motivate people to come to the caucuses. Dwight shared his perspective and feeling that the best way of educating people is by having personal conversations.
- Dwight concluded by sharing his reflections on the memorial service for Karen Marchioro.
- Bob Horn thanked Mike Burner for the new "Get Involved" buttons and presented Dwight with one. Bob explained that they are part of the plan to recruit PCOs and volunteers.
- Martin shared what he found inspiring the challenge and reminded everyone that Darcy lost by less than 5 votes per precinct. Meeting our

goals could translate into a landslide victory for the 8<sup>th</sup> CD as well as the other races.

### **Reports by Elected Officials, Candidates, and Ballot Measure Proponents**

- **Richard Cole – Redmond City Council**
  - Richard thanked everyone for supporting the recent City of Redmond initiatives. Both were passed in the August vote and will be beneficial to the city.
  
- **Jim Robinson – Candidate for Mayor of Redmond**
  - Mr. Robinson shared his background and stances, including:
    - Values equal rights
    - Pro Choice
    - Favors strong environmental efforts
    - 16 years on the city council, performing in a variety of positions and functions
    - Holds two masters degrees – an MBA from Seattle University and MIM from American Graduate School of International Management
    - Has worked for Boeing for over 30 years in several areas including Marketing, Sales, and others. Has worked extensively with pricing estimation and contract negotiations.
    - In discussing why he is running, he posed the question, “Do we want to be a home town, or an employment center?” He wants to keep Redmond a great home town. He is a proponent of careful planning, a strong environmental ethic, quality services, and reasonable taxes.
    - He shared that during his tenure on the city council he did not support the new city hall and he worked to keep utility taxes down. He stated that he was the only candidate to talk about a bus tax.
    - He shared that at night approximately 50,000 live in the city, but there are around 80,000 jobs during the day and on average there are close to 100,000 people in town around mid-day. He questions if the current tax structure is fair for residents and if businesses are paying their fair share. He wants to get residents and businesses together to figure out a fair tax structure for all.
    - He believes that levy lids should be reserved for city halls, parks, and basic infrastructure. Public safety is number one and should be funded internally.
    - He discussed the importance of careful planning and shared that he would like to see a lot more housing in the Overlake plan.

- He also stated he would like to see more involvement from citizens with commissions such as transportation and technical.
- He would like to see the Hartman pool remodeled through public and private partnerships and have more accessibility for seniors and kids.
- He asked for the support of our members.
- Q&A:
  - Ken Jauch asked about how the funds from the public safety levy will be used. Mr. Robinson shared that uses will include additional police officers and firefighters, as well as some additional support staff.
  - Ken then asked when Fire Station 17 would be back open. Richard Cole shared that they are looking at construction now and they hope to have it back open in 2009.
- **Dan Nolte – Campaign Manager for Bill Sherman**
  - Dan shared that the results from the primary were certified today. Bill received 63% of the votes and 13,000 more than the Republican opponent – a great start.
  - The campaign just hired a field director and is launching a field campaign, including doorbelling and phone banks, including on the east side. He shared that he brought yard signs for anyone who wants them and suggested that anyone who would like to volunteer sign up on line.
- **Jessica Greenway – Kirkland City Council**
  - Jessica thanked everyone for their support and spoke about the endorsements she has received.
  - She has been doorbelling for the past several weeks and shared that she finds it to be fun to do so as an incumbent and speak with her constituents. Her goal is to knock on the door of every registered person in Kirkland – around 16,000 doors. To accomplish this, they will need help. She will be holding two doorbelling days – Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She requested volunteers complete forms provided in the back of the room.
- **Richard Pope – King County 6<sup>th</sup> District Council Candidate**
  - Richard shared the results of the primary election where he received approximately 70% of the vote. He stated that it is important we stand together for the general election and he is asking for everyone's support.
  - He shared he intends to wage an active campaign and that he intends to win.

- He feels it is important to have representation of ordinary people. He is a single parent raising a 4 year old daughter with autism. This experience has changed his political thoughts and he believes the policies of the Democrats are better for his daughter, family, and country.
- He would like the opportunity for us to get to know him better and encouraged people to call him with questions and visit his website: <http://popeforcouncil.com/>

### **Maria Cantwell Campaign Representative**

- Nate is the incoming King County Outreach Director for Maria Cantwell. He is filling a position that has been vacant for a while and wants to meet people in different parts of the region so that he can assess what issues are important to the people of the district. He offered to speak with anyone interested after the meeting.

### **Caucus Planning Update – Gary Gelow**

- Gary reported that we have identified about 20 sites for precinct caucuses. We need 2-3 people to help run each of the sites in February. This means we will need about 40 – 60 caucus leaders.
- Martin noted how important it is to have the caucus leaders identified and he encouraged everyone to sign up. He assured everyone that there will be good training provided prior to the caucuses.

### **Endorsement Committee Recommendations**

Kathleen Reynolds thanked everyone for their involvement and attention to endorsements this year. She noted that only one of our endorsements did not advance to the primary – Holly Plackett.

- **City of Redmond Mayor**

- Kathleen noted that the two candidates who advanced in this race are John Marchione and Jim Robinson. The Endorsement Committee re-interviewed these candidates last week and chose to endorse Jim Robinson.
- In comparing the two, they felt Mr. Robinson was more open and candid, as well as more progressive on social issues. Mr. Robinson also has great tenure on the council, 16 years or 4 terms, compared to 4 years or 1 term. He has also received endorsements from many on various commissions and boards. They also liked his ideas on budgeting and taxes.
- Andrew noted that Mr. Robinson has told us he is an ex-Republican who has switched to considering himself an independent. They feel we have an opportunity to endorse a candidate who is aligned with our platform and someone who will listen to us when he is mayor.
- Bob Horn asked if Mr. Marchione is a registered Republican. Andrew shared that Mr. Marchione declined to provide that

information and that he has donated to candidates in both parties in the past.

- Judith Shattuck asked about Mr. Robinson's environmental view. The Endorsement Committee shared that he has lobbied in Olympia for alternative fuels and has worked in the past on growth issues and avoiding sprawl.
- Inge Theissen asked for additional information about Mr. Marchione. The Endorsement Committee shared that he has a history of working in the city and relationships with many people. His mother was a former mayor. There were some concerns about possible division with people who disagreed with his policies and issues around the budget. They felt he seemed to be more aligned with businesses than residents.
- Judith Shattuck made a motion to endorse Jim Robinson and the motioned was seconded.
- DISCUSSION:
  - Richard Cole spoke against the endorsement. He shared insights about the financial issues faced by the current council and how through some painful activities they were able to craft a budget last year to begin to change the course. He feels that Mr. Marchione offered a lot of leadership during the process and emphasized the importance of starting the new budget process to get the city's financial health back in order.
  - Kathleen shared that Jim Robinson also did not support the past budget. He was not a part of the group who created the budget at issue, but he agreed it should not have been accepted.
  - Andrew stated that he did not feel the budget was a reason to vote. Mr. Robinson is not the current mayor who accepted the budget.
  - As there was no further discussion, a vote was taken and the endorsement passed with more than the required 2/3 majority. However, clarification about the voting process was asked for and provided and it was deemed that a recount was in order.
  - A new vote was taken.

**VOTE: PASSED, with more than 2/3 required majority**

The Endorsement Committee is not making any recommendations on other resolutions or the King County 6<sup>th</sup> District Council race at this time. Martin noted that motions from the floor are still in order should someone desire to make them.

## **Chair's Report**

- Martin review key items on the calendar of events from the back of the agenda.
- Eastside Dinner: Martin reviewed the details of the Eastside Dinner, including the purpose, speakers, entertainment, table hosts and location. He shared that the ticket price has been reduced to \$80 and that the raffle tickets will be sold separately. After September 20<sup>th</sup> the price will go up to \$85 per ticket. Checks can be made payable to Eastside Democrats Dinner. Items for the raffle are also welcome.

### **PCO Appointments**

- No PCO appointments made this month

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

- **King County Democrats Central Committee Report**
  - Diane Slota shared that at the last meeting there was a presentation regarding the RTID measure. A spokesperson for the Sierra Club made a case against the measure because of environmental concerns.
  - Endorsements were passed and they heard from candidates about the results of the primary races and their thanks for everyone's help.
- **Treasurer's Report – Terry Linkletter**
  - Terry provided an update on our current revenues, expenses and balance. He also noted that we have already spent around \$800 towards reserving 5 of the 20 sites we will need for the precinct caucuses.
  - Terry reported a little over \$200 in net income from the picnic.
  - He also noted that the Eastside Dinner only provides about 1/3 of the revenues we need to cover our budget and we rely on donations for the rest. This includes membership dues and everyone is encouraged to renew their membership if they have not already done so.
- **45<sup>th</sup> LD Committees Reports**
  - Young Democrats – Andrew reported that the Young Democrats are working to help elect Darcy Burner.
  - LAC – Melissa noted that the LAC is working on another poll and they will share more next month.
- **Other Officers Reports**
  - None were offered.

### **Short Topics / Open Forum / Good of the Order**

- Paul Yarbrough noted several personal items left at the picnic and distributed those identified.
- Dee Carrel noted that the Democratic Women of East King County will be holding an auction on October 28<sup>th</sup> to raise money for candidates. Tickets are \$25 each. The auction will be held at the Sahalee Country Club. Contact Dee if you want to buy a ticket.
- Judith Shattuck thanked everyone for helping with the picnic and making a success while she was away. She particularly appreciated Paul Yarbrough who stepped in to help coordinate the final preparations in her absence.
- Martin also thanked Judith for getting everything started and planned for the picnic.
- Andrew noted that the Washington Supreme Court will be hearing oral arguments about Tim Eyman's latest initiative tomorrow. Andrew will be blogging live from the court.
- Brad Larssen thanked everyone for supporting his campaign. He noted that write in campaigns are quite difficult. Unfortunately, there were some who took the attitude that write in campaigns are impossible and chose not to help. He also shared that early support from those who walked the precincts was key to the Times agreeing to write their article and he really appreciates all the help. He thanked Adam White for stepping up as campaign manager for the last month of the campaign.
- Inge Theissen provided a disk of photographs that were used at Karen Marchioro's memorial and suggested showing them during the social hour at the next meeting.
- Di Irons introduced herself. She is the new representative for the 8<sup>th</sup> CD on the state Executive Board. She noted that she has been visiting the various district meetings and ours had the best turnout.
- Martin asked those new to the meeting to introduce themselves.

### **Old Business**

- None was offered.

### **New Business**

- None was offered.

### **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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