

# **MINUTES FOR 37<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT DEMOCRATS MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

(3/11/19 SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM MEETING; Roughly 95 People in Attendance)

## **I. OPENING (Stephen Reed; 7:01 pm)**

1. 7:01 pm: Call to Order
2. Flag Salute
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes
4. PCO's
  - a. Announcement of Need for PCO's
  - b. Approval of Acting and Appointed PCO's

## **II. PRIMARY VERSUS CAUCUS DISCUSSION (Stephen Reed; 7:08 pm)**

1. Definition of Caucus versus Primary versus Hybrid Primary/Caucus
  - Caucus: Meeting where local Democrats meet at local level to select number of delegates and actual delegates for each candidate
  - Primary: Vote where members of party vote for number of delegates for each candidate
  - Hybrid Primary/Caucus: Primary to determine vote allocations; caucus to determine actual delegates
2. Clarification (Alec Stephens)
  - Each state must submit a plan every four years to establish primary/caucus approach.
3. Question/Answer: The caucuses will be far less expensive for the LD.
  - However, in a Hybrid Caucus, the caucus expense would be far less – the expense of renting a gym for one day.
4. Question/Answer: Participation is far higher in the primary – 800,000 for the primary in 2016 and 250,000 for the caucus
5. Question/Answer: The platform and resolutions/etc. can be handled via higher level caucuses even if we don't have an LD caucus
6. Question/Answer: There is a 15% threshold for candidates. But what happens if no candidate achieves a 15% share of the vote? There is a secondary equation to address this issue.
7. Debate:
  - Factors discussed: charm of caucus; opportunity to debate candidates and change minds; etc. However, the cost of caucuses is high, the turnout for primaries is higher, and there may be a more representative group of participants in primaries; the back-end mounds of paperwork is a challenge; there is not the ability to print information in 12 languages for the caucus.
  - We were the most successful caucus state in the last cycle.
8. Vote of Membership:
  - 40 for primary; 2 for caucus.

**III. SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM -- DISTRICT TWO (Stephen Reed and Chase Cross Moderating; About 7:38 pm)**

1. Opening Statements

- Phyllis Porter: Affordability, transportation and housing are priorities.
- Mark Solomon: City Council hears more from Magnolia and Queen Anne than Columbia City and Rainier Beach. The City Council needs to hear our voice.
- Tammy Morales: We need to take care of our families in South Seattle, and we need to take action and represent the district in City Hall. We need to end the culture of backroom deals, and bring affordable housing and senior housing and local community emphasis. We need to stop criminalizing poverty and work for the Green New Deal.
- Matthew Perkins: City Hall has not been responsive to the residents in District Two. Homelessness, the opioid epidemic, affordable housing and property taxes are priorities.
- Chris Peguero: LGBTQ justice, climate justice and equity are priorities. Homelessness is a primary problem; more encampments are needed; addiction and mental health must be addressed in encampments; low-income transit oriented housing is important; a small business fund is important.
- Ari Hoffman: Entered race due to homeless crisis (prostitution and drugs in cemeteries). Interested in data-driven solutions to the crisis.

2. Questions from Audience

- Question about party affiliation. All members are Democrats, except Ari Hoffman who is not a Democrat or a Republican.
- Question about housing – with a \$6 billion budget, we need only \$100 million to address the crisis. Why hasn't this been done, and who is going to do it? There are various responses to the question.
- Question about the fees paid in by developers to promote affordable housing – can this be done immediately and with impact? There are various responses to the question.

**IV. SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM -- DISTRICT THREE (Stephen Reed and Chase Cross Moderating; About 8:07 pm)**

1. Opening Statements

- Amy Wen: Has worked with disabled individuals and non-English speakers. Wants to focus on having the unheard constituents obtain a voice in City Hall.
- Logan Bowers: Housing affordability and displacement are priorities.
- Pat Murakami: Gentrification and displacement are priorities. Vulcan development is doing well, but residents are not. A community grocery store is important to replace Red Apple. The trickle-down economic philosophy is a problem. Mental health is key and so are programs to help workers purchase homes.
- Kshama Sawant: Is Amazon going to run City Hall, or are ordinary working people. It is critical to stand up to big business. Renters rights, minimum wage, movement fees and the stopping of the North Seattle Bunker are amongst her achievements. Political will to deal with rent control and housing affordability are key.

2. Questions from Audience

- Two part question about party affiliation and the troubling loss of housing in the area (e.g., Holly Park, Vista, etc.). There are various answers to the question.
- Question about whether single-family zoning should be eliminated (as in Minneapolis). There are various answers to this question.
- Question about whether the ineffective City Council should be changes. There are various answers to the question.
- Question about various means of achieving density (e.g., duplexes, triplexes, ADU's and DADU's). There are various answers to this question.

**V. JUDICIAL CANDIDATES (Stephen Reed Moderating; 8:43 pm)**

1. Opening Statements

- Amy. Seeking re-election as judge appointed by Jay Inslee. Has focused on Latina issues and issues of equality under the law.
- Marshall Ferguson. Running to retain seat. Emphasizes the importance of justice, and equality under the law, restorative justice, redemption, etc.
- Maureen Key. Running to retain seat. Appointed by Jay Inslee. Focuses on fairness and empathy toward everyone.

**VI. CONSERVATION DISTRICT CANDIDATES (Stephen Reed Moderating; 8:50 pm)**

1. Opening Statements

- Chris Porter. Pollinators (bees, etc.) are critical. There are several Conservation District positions, and the Democratic Party has not been aggressive enough in pursuing these seats. Voters must request ballots in order to vote for this position.
- Rachael Malloy. Focused on renewable energy and carbon emission reductions.
- Karen Howe. There are five great people running for the open seat. She runs a Conservation Non-Profit.

2. Questions from Audience: There are six candidates for one open position.

**VII. RESOLUTION ON CENTRAL AREA SENIOR CENTER (8:56 pm)**

1. Diane speaks on topic. The current occupants have been there for 51 years. The property is worth \$4 million or more. They would like to have the property transferred to them. They have joined with the Greenwood-Phinney Center. This will thwart gentrification.

2. Questions from Audience.

- They have raised money for upkeep, but not for the capital investment (e.g., for hillside improvement).
- The cite has a great view. If it is sold, it would be converted into condominiums.

- The resolution calls for the transference of the site – to be signed by Mayor Jennifer Durkan.
  - This was also the cite of the 37<sup>th</sup> District Democrats.
3. The Resolution is passed by acclamation.

**VI. OTHER (9:05 pm).**

1. Molly is nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair and she is nominated by acclamation.
2. Andrew – a candidate for City Council speaks. Supports public housing (and Ft. Lawton in particular).
3. Emily Knudsen has ballots and information about the Conservation District.
4. Kiku notes that Tandy Williams will be acknowledged by the League of Women Voters for her efforts to get out the vote.
5. Rachael notes that the House passed renter reform this week.
6. Adjournment at 9:11 pm.