

34th District GOP Meeting Minutes for April 15th, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:03PM by Chairman Chuck Rangel. Pledge of Allegiance led by Dave Whitener.

Old Business: Chairman Rangel reported that March minutes were not taken due to the Secretary position being vacant. Molly Connelly was then appointed to the Secretary position, and will no longer chair the Canvassing Committee.

Guest Speaker: Rick Forschler, former Sea Tac City Council member and current president of the King County chapter of the Citizens' Alliance for Property Rights (CAPR). Topic discussed was the impact of government regulation on housing affordability, viewed through the lens of the economic philosophy of Frederic Bastiat. Beginning in the 1970's, cities were losing people as people desired to move to the suburbs. There was a responding effort to increase city populations and decrease urban sprawl via growth management acts. Urban growth boundaries benefit the landowners inside the boundary. Artificially increasing housing demand inside the boundary → artificially high housing prices. Housing costs are much higher in places with growth management controls. Housing prices are also increased via building fees, land use regulations, and taxes.

<https://www.washingtonpolicy.org/sites/default/files/how-government-officials-icrease-home-prices.pdf>

The Law, written by political economist Bastiat, is a good resource for understanding the causes of economic failure: 1. stupid greed, 2. false philanthropy. Discussed the difference between legal property and legal plunder. Men will resort to plunder when plunder is easier than labor. Plunder stops when it becomes more dangerous than labor. Small groups (including government itself) try to control government to grab the reins of control for their special interests. Victims of legal plunder will either wish to stop legal plunder, or share in the legal plunder (e.g. Karl Marx's solution to get rid of the bourgeois by installing a dictatorship of the proletariat). *The Law* explains the philosophy behind legal plunder, which helps to explain why housing costs are high. Government is creating more work/job security for themselves with ever increasing regulations, and in the process home prices are rising.

"Comprehensive Planning" is used in urban areas to accomplish growth management goals; planning commissions are usually appointed by the City Council, and are a good place to get involved as a private citizen by either volunteering to serve on the commission, or attending planning commission meetings and giving testimony to educate commissioners and fellow citizens in attendance. Planning commissions may be heavily influenced by the planning staff. Need concerted effort by citizens to counteract this.

When questioned about what is the greatest threat in our current political climate, Mr. Forschler responded: a Constitutional Convention, which poses a risk of the destruction of the Constitution as we know it. Many liberal groups are pushing for a Con-Con under the guise of overturning Citizen's United, but with the intention of fundamentally changing many other aspects of the Constitution once the Convention begins.

CAPR meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Issaquah IHOP.
<http://www.capr.us/KING/>

New Business:

Chairman Rangel expressed concern that some Republican state legislators voted to increase the gas tax, at a time when state revenues are higher than ever. But also noted the success of the Republican legislators' budget process in passing a budget without any general tax increases. Chairman Rangel gave an update on Burien City Council Ordinance 621, and stated that it addresses public safety issues, and does not target the homeless.

Executive Board update from KCGOP 2nd Vice Chair Courteney Lyle: Data Beacon mobile canvassing app is not functional at this time. KCGOP is working to fix this. We might return to using GOP Data Center. In the meantime KCGOP will work on making precinct walking lists available to PCOs. KCGOP Chair Lori Sotelo has appointed Chairs for two new committees: 1. Canvassing Committee chaired by Cynthia Cole, and 2. Candidate Committee co-chaired by Steve Altick and Lisa Shin. Phase II of the Candidate Committee project will involve appointing one member from each Legislative District to help identify, recruit and vet potential candidates.

Newsletter Committee Report from Steve Schmidt: expect 3-4 emails/month from LD34 leadership. Online newsletter will contain lighthearted anecdotes, info on District activities and King County politics. Contact Steve at if you have items you would like included in the newsletter; email: steven.alan.schmidt@comcast.net

Monthly meeting preferences online survey report from Molly Connelly: all 54 PCOs were contacted, and 27 responded to the online survey. The winning preferences were: day: Tuesday evening (with Wednesday evening a close second); location: West Seattle; food availability is not important; parking availability is important. (see attached survey results for further detail)

Fairs and community events committee report from Becky Nicholas: we need more people to commit to showing up to help with a summer fair, which could require at least two 12 hour days of staffing. Options are Burien Strawberry Festival, West Seattle Summer Fest, and Jubilee Days. The White Center Cambodian New Year Street Festival might be a good future option.

Events and Youth Committee report from John Denault: LD34 GOP summer picnic date is narrowed down to Sunday August 16th, or Sunday August 23rd. If we want to participate in a summer fair we need to make a commitment soon, in order to meet signup deadlines and have time to prepare.

Good of the Order: Chairman Rangel announced that our monthly meeting location will be changed to the American Legion building in the West Seattle Junction; cost of facility rental is \$50/hour. Craig Keller expressed concern that SDOT's proposed changes to 35th Ave SW will lead to obstructed and inefficient travel, and noted that this is an important issue for Seattle City Council D1 candidates to address. Filing deadline for Seattle City Council candidates is Friday May 15th, 2015.

Molly Connelly inquired about accessing the 2012 LD34 GOP caucus voter list as a resource to use for sending out LD34 GOP meeting and event invitations; Chairman Rangel and KCGOP 2nd Vice-Chair Lyle answered that they will ask KCGOP Chair Lori Sotelo to provide this list.

Next meeting will be held on May 20th, 2015 at 7pm at the American Legion in the Alaska Junction.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29PM

Results from the Monthly Meeting Preferences Online Survey

(27 responses out of 53 PCOs contacted)

Summary of PCO preferences for our monthly meeting: Tuesday evenings in West Seattle, food availability isn't important, participants are willing to contribute money to rent a space. Parking availability is important.

Survey Result Details:

Q1: Which day of the week would you prefer?

Tuesday: 39%

Wednesday: 31%

Thursday: 24%

Saturday: 4%

N/A: 2%

Q2: Which neighborhood would you prefer?

West Seattle: 54%

Burien: 35%

White Center: 0%

N/A: 11%

Q3: How important is it to have food available at the meeting venue?

Not important: 70%

Somewhat important: 15%

Very important: 15%

Q4: Would you willing to pay \$5 per meeting to help cover the cost of renting the meeting venue?

Yes: 63%

No: 15%

Other: 22%

Summary of additional comments: parking availability is important, and there are concerns that West Seattle lacks this. Food availability is helpful for people who can't go home before the meeting. Two requests for an earlier meeting time. One request for Monday as a meeting day. Saturday morning conflicts with religious obligations. Requests for advance email agendas with speakers and a project plan for the District, and a request to stay on track with the agenda during the meetings. It's important to have a venue that is welcoming to the public, where visitors don't feel obliged to pay money or buy food to attend the meeting. Prefer to use a free place for the meeting venue e.g. a public library meeting room. Area chairmen conducting neighborhood meetings would help remedy the location issue.