

## CEG MEETING NOTES FOR JUNE 23, 2017

Our facilitator, Joan Conlon, called the meeting to order at 4:00. p.m.

### EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS

#### Democracy Vouchers

John Harkins described the Democracy Voucher Program held in the Mount Baker Room on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Wayne Barnett, Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission, gave an interactive presentation, which covered the origins of the program, how it functions, who is eligible to receive and use vouchers, and what to do if you need replacement vouchers.

Jim Tanner noted that there are links to “useful websites” on the 725 Blog, which can connect you to the various parts of the Democracy Voucher Program for information. These links can be found at <http://www.skyline725.com/ceg/ceg-useful-links/>. Put this link into your browser, click on it, and scroll down to Category 27. You can then click on the website you want. Alternatively, you can also just click on the following URLs:

General information on the Democracy Voucher Program:

<http://www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher/>

List of eligible candidates: This is a list of candidates who have agreed to adhere to certain contribution and expenditure limits, and have demonstrated community support by obtaining at least 400 contributions of at least \$10.00 or more. The list provided identifies those who are currently eligible and those who are attempting to qualify.

<http://www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher/i-am-a-seattle-resident/eligible-candidates>

Voucher Return Method: You can return vouchers either to the candidate of your choice, or directly to the City’s Democracy Voucher Program.

<http://www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher/i-am-a-seattle-resident/return-democracy-vouchers>

Frequently Asked Questions:

<http://www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher/i-am-a-seattle-resident/faqs>

Finally, if you do not use a computer or cannot find what you need, you can call the Democracy Voucher Program at (206) 727-8855.

*Note:* The Mayor’s race is not included in this Democracy Voucher cycle. The offices that are included are the City Attorney, 8<sup>th</sup> City Council Seat, and 9<sup>th</sup> City Council Seat. Further, only qualifying candidates may redeem vouchers for actual cash. Qualifying candidates must agree to certain contribution and expenditure limits and demonstrate citizen support by obtaining four hundred contributions of at least \$10.00 each.

#### ***Al Franken, Giant of the Senate***

Joan Horner spoke about the live streaming of Senator Al Franken’s talk at Town Hall on June 16<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned that many of us would have preferred to hear more about the operation of the United States Senate, rather than his book, but it was a book appearance. For those who missed it, you can see it on YouTube using your browser to find “Seattle Town Hall, Al Franken,” then click on the media library. The session is approximately 90 minutes long.

Joan also noted that she has reached out to Town Hall staff to discuss Skyline's concerns about sound volume, advising them that this was a problem at the Franken event. She has not yet heard back, but will continue to pursue the matter.

### **Sound Transit Property Disposition**

Suzanne Hittman reported on the June 22<sup>nd</sup> Sound Transit Board meeting. From Skyline, Suzanne, Ann Milam, and Linda Wolf attended the lengthy hearing. The purpose was to demonstrate support for the use of the surplus property at Boylston Avenue and Madison Street for low-income housing. This was the culmination of a process in which Skyline residents, the First Hill Association, and other community members have encouraged the use of the site for low-income housing, retail first floor space, and community meeting space.

Sound Transit staff presented suggested guidelines for a request for proposals (RFP) to dispose of the property, which would initially be limited to organizations with a past history of low-income housing development and management, and recognized the Board's authority to award purchase of the land without requiring direct sale based on highest bid.

It was also noted that those who had not attended hearings of this nature previously were introduced to the reality that "democracy moves slowly."

The Board approved the staff proposal unanimously. An RFP is expected to be issued in August, with a recommendation for award possibly as early as September of this year.

Suzanne also reported that staff from Plymouth Housing expressed their gratitude for resident support of the project. After the meeting, we received a notice from Bob Terrell that the *Capitol Hill Times* covered the hearing. Their report can be found at:

<http://www.capitolhilltimes.com/Content/News/News/Article/First-Hill-site-cleared-for-affordable-housing/26/337/5009>

### **COMING EVENTS**

#### **June 26, 3:30 p.m. Dr. James Conca, PhD: Ethics of a Global Energy Policy**

Dr. James Conca (Ph.D. Geochemistry, California Institute of Technology) will speak to the Peace and Justice Group on the hope for and methods for achieving a green, balanced energy policy as presented by the Paris Accords. Dr. Conca is a frequent science contributor to *Forbes Magazine*, and Chief Technical Officer for UFA Ventures. (Announced by David O'Hara.)

*(Note from David O'Hara on behalf of the Peace and Justice interest group: Dr. Conca is coming from Eastern Washington at his personal expense. A substantial audience for his presentation would be appreciated.)*

#### **June 29, 3:00 p.m. King County Executive Dow Constantine**

King County Executive Dow Constantine will join us to discuss "The Role of County Government." He is expected to talk about what the County does and does not do, and the impact of federal policies on the County and its citizens. (Announced by Mary Jane Francis for Katherine Graubard.)

*Note:* There may be an opportunity to be of service to the community. If you are interested in helping Katherine Graubard, who is managing the event, please contact her at [graubard@uw.edu](mailto:graubard@uw.edu).

#### **July 18, 2:00 p.m. King County Proposition 1—Access for All**

Staff from the "Access for All" group will present a program in support of King County Proposition 1. This organization is the primary supporter of the proposal. If adopted, the

proposition would increase the sales tax by 1/10<sup>th</sup> of one percent throughout King County to provide financial support to arts, scientific education, and cultural organizations.

*Note:* In the interest of fairness, we have reached out to the County Council Members who opposed the initiative, the authors of the “Statement Against” in the Voter’s Pamphlet, and the *Seattle Times* and *Stranger* reporters who have written about it in an effort to find an opposing group. There does not appear to be any organized opposition.

Joan Conlon also asked that residents be advised that the proponents are seeking volunteers to staff telephone banks to encourage voters to support the proposition. If you are interested in helping, please contact her at [joan193900@gmail.com](mailto:joan193900@gmail.com) or by telephone at (206) 407-1694.

To obtain a copy of the enabling legislation, which describes how funds would be disbursed, etc., please contact [jimsanders1947@gmail.com](mailto:jimsanders1947@gmail.com).

**August 10, 3:30 p.m. Professor Kate Starbird: Fake News—What It Is, And How To Recognize It**

Kate Starbird is an Assistant Professor in the University of Washington’s Department of Human Centered Design and Engineering. On her U/W contact site, she describes her work as being at the intersection of computer science and social science, falling within the field of Human-Computer Interaction. Her particular area of expertise is in the arena of “Fake News.” She will join us to talk about what fake news is, where it comes from, and how to recognize it.

We initially invited Professor Starbird to join us this Spring, after hearing her interview on KIRO-FM and reading her interview with Danny Westneat in the *Seattle Times*. She was unable to make a commitment at that time due to a heavy schedule, but will be with us in August.

**October 3, 4:15 p.m. Attorney General Robert Ferguson: The Legal State of the State**  
Attorney General Robert Ferguson will return to meet with us to discuss the state of the state, particularly in light of the impact of federal legislation, the State Supreme Court McCleary decision, and other topics of interest.

**OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

**Providing Voter Registration To New Residents**

This carryover from our last meeting relates to how we might encourage new residents to become politically engaged, and to let them know of our existence. Based on our prior discussion, Jim Sanders spoke with Rhoda McLaughlan, Chair of the Hospitality Committee, regarding whether the committee provided voter registration and related materials to new residents. She indicated they did not do this at the present time, but saw no difficulty from a Committee perspective if we wanted to undertake that effort.

Jim then brought the matter via email to the Lifestyle Department. The Department did have concerns about an outside entity putting unsolicited materials in resident skyboxes. CEG is an outside entity; it is not an interest group, etc.

In the course of the discussion, it was suggested that as neighbors and residents we may, of course, mention the Civic Engagement Group to our new friends. We can also approach the Hospitality Committee to see if they would like to distribute voter registration forms and League of Women Voter “They Work for You” pamphlets as a part of their activity. Frank Conlon agreed to discuss this with Rhoda.

## Candidate Forums

At our last meeting we decided to pursue the possibility of hosting candidate forums. In recognition that there are more races on the ballot than we can address, we decided to poll the CEG membership to see where the greatest areas of interest lie. The results for the top five races are as shown below.

1 <sup>st</sup>	City of Seattle – Mayor	33.90%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	City of Seattle – City Council Position 8	23.73%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	City of Seattle – City Council Position 9	14.41%
4 <sup>th</sup>	Port of Seattle Position # 1	6.78%
4 <sup>th</sup>	Port of Seattle Position # 4	6.78%

To make this work, we need volunteers who are willing to extend invitations to the candidates, develop questions (with input from residents and outside research), and actually conduct the event. If we do not get active support, we might do one, but that's it. There will be a separate email on this subject, but if you are interested in filling any of these roles (all events to be held in October; date and time TBD), please contact [jimsanders1947@gmail.com](mailto:jimsanders1947@gmail.com).

## Bus Route #3 and #4—Reroute

Tom Gibbs reminded us that anyone interested in weighing in on the proposed rerouting of the #3 and #4 bus routes needs to communicate their concerns to Metro Transit by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you have not already done so, you can participate via Metro's online survey. The easiest way to do this is to go to the 725 Blog, scroll down to Peggy Newsom's entry, click on the [online survey](#), and record your responses. (*Note:* Apparently, you can only take the survey once, not multiple times.)

You are also invited to reach out to Metro staff and our elected representatives to share your thoughts on this matter:

**Tristan Cook, Community Relations Planner**  
King County Department of Transportation  
[tristan.cook@kingcounty.gov](mailto:tristan.cook@kingcounty.gov)

**County Executive Dow Constantine:**  
Email: [kcexec@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kcexec@kingcounty.gov)  
Telephone: 206-263-9600

**County Councilmember Joe McDermott**  
Email: [joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov](mailto:joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov)  
Telephone: 206-477-1008

**City Councilmember Kshama Sawant**  
Email: [Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov](mailto:Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov)  
Telephone: 206-684-8016

**Fort Lawton Low-Income Housing**

Suzanne Hittman brought to our attention that the City is again planning to pursue efforts to use a small portion of Fort Lawton for low-income housing. The initial proposal several years ago was blocked by a lawsuit on behalf of residents who argued that the City needed to do a full Environmental Impact Study.

If you are interested in assisting other residents in supporting this effort, please contact Suzanne at [suzhittman@aol.com](mailto:suzhittman@aol.com).

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Friday, July 14, Mount Baker Room**

Thanks to Joan Conlon for facilitating the meeting, Jim Tanner and Jane Sanders for taking notes, Wendy Schoen for editing and formatting the minutes, and to all of those who participated in the meeting.