

CEG Meeting Minutes—August 11, 2017

The meeting was opened by Katherine Graubard at 4:05 p.m.

COMMENTS ON THE PAST TWO WEEKS

August 10th 3:30 p.m. Professor Kate Starbird—“Fake News”

(Professor Starbird is a faculty member of the UW Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering.)

Diane Stevens led off the discussion of this event with the comment that the emotional impact of Professor Starbird’s presentation was depressing. The results of what Professor Starbird described as *misinformation*, *disinformation*, and *propaganda* (rather than “fake news”), coupled with the attacks on our more generally accepted news outlets, paint a bleak picture.

Other comments from the group suggested that it would be useful to have more information on how to validate an electronic website to determine its legitimacy and credibility. There was also concern that the increasing rapidity of the news cycle results in the need to rush to press—sometimes leading to errors. The tendency of social media sites to funnel selective news reports based on “likes” and “dislikes” tends to separate us into echo chambers or news silos with only one perspective. Frank Conlon shared the view that while the outlook is not rosy, our responsibility as citizens today is to examine information critically and to encourage our children and grandchildren to do the same.

Rick Baugh offered the suggestion that there are generally recognized information sources on the Internet. Jim Tanner mentioned that residents have begun assembling recommended sites on the 725 Blog on the CEG’s “Useful Websites” page.

Finally, Jim Sanders noted that one of our residents requested material from Professor Starbird that might help us understand some of the terminology used in this field. The Professor has provided the document, “Lexicon of Liars,” which will be distributed via email next week.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, August 12, 10:00 a.m. Adam Smith, Town Hall, Tukwila

Diane Stevens offered to provide transportation to Congressman Smith’s Town Hall on Saturday morning. Diane expressed a particular interest in his thoughts, having heard him speak at Skyline earlier this year. She is curious to learn what other district residents might have to say. (We hope to hear more about this event at our next CEG meeting.)

Friday, August 18, 2:00 p.m. County Council President Joe McDermott, Mt. Baker Room

Councilmember McDermott will talk about County Government and the role of the Council. If you have questions for him, please contact Tom Gibbs, who is coordinating this event. Frank Conlon noted that one question we might ask about is the possible rerouting of the #3 and #4 buses, as well as the possible termination of the #4 route.

Thursday, September 28, 6:30 p.m. Mayoral Forum on Homelessness

Shirley Adler brought to our attention that the Saint James Cathedral Housing Advocacy Committee will sponsor a Mayoral Forum in the Cathedral Hall, which will focus on housing and homelessness. This is a sequel to last year’s forum, which drew 200 attendees. Those who wish to go over to the meeting (entrance on the east side of the Cathedral) are invited to join Shirley at the 5th floor Skyline lobby at 6:15 p.m. that evening.

Tuesday, October 3, 4:00 p.m. Robert Ferguson, Washington State Attorney General

Attorney General Ferguson has accepted an invitation to join us in the Mount Baker Room for a discussion on State legal issues and other matters. The Attorney General would appreciate any advance information residents may wish to provide regarding questions we might have regarding his office or related issues, or topics we would like him to address. If you have questions or issues for his consideration, please contact Peg Haggerty via email at peghaggerty@gmail.com or call her at (206) 935-5277.

Candidate Forums – Mostly on Mondays in October – All in the Mount Baker Room

We have scheduled (and are continuing to schedule) candidate forums with Seattle City Council, Seattle Mayor, and Port Commission races. The forums will run for ninety minutes and consist of opening and closing statements and a set of questions assembled by resident committees, all posed by a resident moderator.

If you have questions for the candidates, or issues you would like raised at these forums, please send them via email to jimsanders1947@gmail.com or leave a hard copy for Jim in Skybox 202.

Schedule of Forums

Monday, Oct. 2, 3:00 p.m.	City Council Pos. 8:	Jon Grant and Theresa Mosqueda
Monday, Oct. 9, 3:00 p.m.	Port Comm. Pos. 1:	Ryan Calkins and John Creighton
Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m.*	City Council Pos. 9:	Lorena Gonzalez and Pat Murakami
Monday, Oct. 16, 3:00 p.m.	Port Comm. Pos. 4:	Preeti Shridhar and Peter Steinbrueck
Monday, Oct. 23, 3:00 p.m.	Mayor of Seattle:	Jenny Durkan and Cary Moon

We have confirmations of attendance from the City Council Position 8 candidates and the Port Commission Position 4 candidates. We also have a notice of availability, but no date of attendance, from the Durkan Campaign. The Moon campaign indicated that they would respond to our request in Mid-August. Jim Sanders will follow up with them early this week.

When originally scheduling the events, Jim failed to take into account that Ms. Lorena Gonzalez, the incumbent in Council Position 9, had City Council Committee meetings each Monday in October that would prevent her from joining us.

Given the vacant time slot on October 9th, we discussed whether to try to bring another pair of candidates to Skyline. Given the choice of inviting candidates for the School District position or for another Port Commission position, the group decided to invite the Port Commission candidates for Position 1 to join us on the vacant date. Tom Gibbs and Jim Sanders will contact the candidates to see if they are willing and able to join us.

Toward the close of our session, Suzanne Hittmann asked what measures might be on the ballot in November. At this time, the only measure identified on the King County Elections Website is the Seniors, Veterans, and Homeless Property Tax renewal.

There is another measure that will go to the ballot—a prohibition on the use of county funds to support safe injection sites. While this initiative appeared to have enough signatures, it is not clear at this time whether the measure was certified in time to be on this ballot.

ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES—CANDIDATE FORUMS*

Early on Friday evening, we received a notice from the Gonzalez campaign that they would like to join us for an evening event on Tuesday, October 10th. We have extended an invitation to her opponent, Pat Murakami, to join us as well. It is our hope that Ms. Murakami will be able to join us.

This will give us a total of five candidate forums, rather than four. While we understand that this may be an overload for some residents, we felt that it would be better to go ahead with five—we all get to make choices each day.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, August 25, Mount Baker Room

Thanks to Lilyan Snow and Jane Sanders for taking notes, to Lilyan and Wendy Schoen for editing and formatting the material, and to all of those who participated.