

CEG MEETING MINUTES—JULY 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Mary Jane Francis, our facilitator for this event.

COMMENTS ON PAST TWO WEEKS

June 26 Dr. James Conca—Nuclear Power (from David O’Hara)*

Dr. Conca presented a talk on the benefits of nuclear power from a social justice standpoint. He stressed the benefits of a strong middle-class, and the absolute need for energy to develop and sustain that group. David noted that Dr. Conca’s presentation was extremely rapid and long, without a lot of time for questions.

June 29 County Executive Dow Constantine (from Mary Jane Francis)*

Mary Jane talked mostly about her reaction to County Executive Down Constantine’s presentation to Skyline last month. She noted the sense of hopefulness that she hadn’t found in other speakers in the past few months.

In his presentation Mr. Constantine talked about the scope of County responsibility, providing certain basic services countywide (health care via the countywide system, sewage treatment, transit, etc.), and other basic services to unincorporated parts of the county. He also noted that the County also provides various services to smaller municipal jurisdictions on a contractual basis.

**Comments on these presentations are more limited because they occurred here at Skyline.*

July 5 Senator Cantwell’s Town Hall on Health Care (from Katherine Graubard)

Senator Maria Cantwell, joined by Dr. Paul Ramsey, CEO of Harborview Hospital, conducted a Town Hall discussion at the University of Washington. Senator and Dr. Ramsey did not make any introductory remarks. After introductions were made, the floor was opened to questions. Audience members were each permitted to draw a raffle ticket. Those whose numbers were drawn were then invited to make comments or ask a question.

As may be expected in an unscripted Q and A session, the comments and questions were somewhat uneven and fell generally into two areas: 1) questions about what to do if the Affordable Health Care act is repealed or amended, and 2) stories of how the ACA allowed them to obtain health care, sometimes for the first time in their lives.

Senator Cantwell did note that in the event that the Republican Caucus does not have fifty-one votes, it may decide to try to find common cause with some Democratic Senators. She mentioned that Washington State had a reasonably robust state health care program prior to the adoption of the American Health Care Act (Obama Care) and that she would put that system forward as a possible option for consideration.

Katherine noted that unlike the later forum at Town Hall, there was a significant police presence and no apparent recording of the event. From a personality standpoint, Katherine’s impression was that Senator Cantwell is calm, reasonable, somewhat austere, but clearly competent. Tom Gibbs also added that his experience with the Senator was that she has been easy to work with and very helpful in the past. Sue Hogan then mentioned that she has always received a response to her emails from the Senator’s staff, unlike some other elected officials.

July 7 Senator Cantwell's Town Hall on Net Neutrality (from Al MacRae)

Senator Maria Cantwell, who was joined by FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, conducted a discussion at Town Hall on July 11th. The event was well attended. Net Neutrality is defined as “the principle that Internet service providers (ISPs) and governments regulating the Internet should treat all data on the Internet the same, not discriminating or charging differently by user, content, website, platform, application, type of attached equipment, or mode of communication.” Here at Skyline the principal Internet provider is Comcast.

The moderator first called on Senator Cantwell to say a few words, during which she described the meaning of net neutrality. Then Commissioner Clyburn focused in on “throttling” of Internet signals by the ISP—that is, the ISP may adversely decrease the speed or access time of some websites, giving preference to specific websites that are willing to pay more for their fast access—clearly a violation of net neutrality.

The moderator then opened up a question and answer session with the people in the audience. Commissioner Clyburn, with her detailed understanding of net neutrality, answered most of the questions. Most of the questioners expressed their deep concerns that their business and personal lives would be adversely impacted if the open Internet gets disrupted by the elimination of net neutrality (i.e., especially having slow access to websites).

Both Senator Cantwell and Commissioner Clyburn repeatedly emphasized the importance of letters or email notes to the FCC Commissioners regarding their objections to the elimination of net neutrality. The deadline for public input is next Monday, July 17th. (See prior emails from Jim Sanders on how to contact the FCC about this.)

The quality of the discussions on the subject by the Senator and the Commissioner and members of the audience was impressive. There were no disruptions, and members of the audience were given a good opportunity to express their views—Democracy at its best! Note that the *Seattle Times* had a recent long article on the subject of net neutrality and of the Senator Cantwell Town Hall meeting. The URL for this article is: <http://www.seattletimes.com/business/technology/tech-companies-rally-to-protest-rollback-of-net-neutrality/>

This event was attended by a number of other Skyline residents, who noted the following: Katherine Graubard commented that the absence of a police presence and the apparent presence of reporters with video equipment created a different “feel” to the event. She also noted, as did Al MacRae, that there was clear evidence of technical understanding by the audience.

Those interested are encouraged to communicate their concerns and comments to the FCC. People who are worried about adverse impacts on their businesses should provide the FCC with more lengthy explanations of their concerns.

Barb Williams noted that the FCC website is not particularly user friendly. She offered a screen print of how to connect with the comments section. (*Note:* This screen print was sent out Friday evening, July 14, 2017. If you did not get it, please contact Jim at jimsander1947@gmail.com.)

July 11th Enrique Cerna's Interview with Attorney General Robert Ferguson (from Sonia Baker)

Bob Ferguson, Washington State Attorney General, was interviewed by Enrique Cerna on July 11th at the Seattle Public Library. Mr. Cerna used some of his own questions, but also included questions from the audience. In the introduction, Mr. Ferguson (who was introduced by his sister) mentioned that he was the sixth of seven children in his family, and the house rules

were—“no blood, no foul”. In addition to being the Attorney General, he is an internationally ranked chess master, and lives on Queen Anne Hill. The Attorney General’s office, which he leads, has slightly more than 1,000 employees. Mr. Ferguson is also active in the States Attorneys General Association, bringing him into contact with his peers throughout the nation.

In the interview, he discussed the State’s suit against the Administration’s travel ban, noting that they began preparing for this issue immediately after the November election. That suit was later joined by the states of Hawaii and Maryland. Mr. Ferguson stated clearly that the travel ban put forth by the federal administration is, in his view, inconsistent with the basic principles of who we are as a people.

Mr. Ferguson also discussed the efforts of the current federal administration to roll back administrative regulations, revoke the status of national monuments, and other actions. He noted that the President does not have the authority either to change the status of national parks (established by federal legislation, and requiring Congressional action) or to revoke administrative rules (these require procedural action by the implementing departments through the standard rules practice). He also talked about the negative impact of “dark money” in campaigns and the Citizens United decision of the Supreme Court. Finally, Mr. Ferguson stressed the importance of citizen involvement in the political process. We each have a platform, and we can share our views with elected officials.

COMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 17th 6:30 p.m. **KING Television Mayoral Forum** (watch in your apartment)
KING Television (Channels 5 or 105-HD) is presenting the only televised mayoral forum. The six candidates whom they deem most likely to make it to the general election (Jenny Durkan, Jessyn Farrell, Bob Hasegawa, Mike McGinn, Cary Moon, and Nikkita Oliver) will appear in a question and answer session.

July 18th, 2:00 p.m. **King County Proposition 1—Access for All Ballot Issue** (Mount Baker Room)
Dwight Gee, Vice Chair of Access for All, the group leading support for King County Proposition 1, will join us to talk about how the proposed sales tax will support regional and community cultural organizations. Come to listen and bring your questions.

July 19th, 3:00 p.m. **Skyline Soapbox** (Mount Baker Room)
Frank Conlon has agreed to moderate a Soapbox Forum about the election. This is a new experimental effort to bring residents together to diplomatically express support for the candidate of their choice, or to raise questions about other candidates running for office in the August 1st Primary Election. Come and support your favorites, or come and listen to see what you can learn.

July 20th, 7:00 p.m. **Former Mayors’ Punditry** (Folio, 314 Marion Street)
Join former mayors Wes Uhlman, Charles Royer, and Greg Nickels and former Deputy Mayor Maud Daudon in a discussion of City politics moderated by C.R Douglas. (*Note:* There is a \$10 admission charge for this event.) If you would like to go as part of a group from Skyline, please contact Joan Conlon at conlonj@Colorado.EDU or by telephone at (206) 407-1694.

July 21st **Proposition 1 Phone Bank** (1st and Main (Pioneer Square))
Join Peg Haggerty and friends at a phone bank in support of King County Proposition 1 between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Contact Peg at peghaggerty@gmail.com or by telephone at (206) 935-

5277 for further information or to make arrangements to join her and your favorite Uber driver for transportation.

August 10th, 3:30 p.m. **Kate Starbird—Fake News** (Mount Baker Room)

Kate Starbird, Assistant Professor in the University of Washington's Department of Human Centered Design and Engineering, will join us for a discussion about "Fake News: What it is, Where it comes from, and How to recognize it."

October 3rd, 4:00 p.m. **Attorney General Robert Ferguson** (Mount Baker Room)

Peg Haggerty has arranged for the Attorney General to join us for a discussion of state legal issues and other topics of interest. His normal practice is to speak for approximately fifteen minutes and then respond to questions. He would like to know what our interests and concerns are ahead of time, so if you have questions you would like to ask, or topics of particular interest, please share them with Peg at peghaggerty@gmail.com or by telephone at (206) 935-5277 by September 1st so she can forward them to the Attorney General.

BUSINESS ITEMS—OPPORTUNITIES TO BE OF SERVICE

Candidate Forum Service Opportunities: We have a set of four candidate forum slots scheduled for October. Our goal is to have the General Election candidates for Mayor, City Council Position 8, City Council Position 9, and candidates for one of the Port Commission seats join us for an hour or so to discuss their credentials and goals. To do this will require volunteers to take on the following tasks for each forum:

1. A chairperson coordinator for each forum,
2. A group of three or four residents for each forum who will help develop and refine candidate questions, and
3. A set of "day-of" volunteers who will actually conduct each forum. This includes one MC, a moderator, a timer, and two greeters.

More details about this will be distributed Sunday, July 16th. If you have questions, please contact Jim at jimsanders1947@gmail.com or by telephone at (206) 323-8952.

Ongoing Service Opportunities: We are in need of residents to take on some CEG administrative responsibilities. Ongoing tasks include developing agendas for our bimonthly business meetings, taking notes at the meetings, and writing up the minutes for each meeting. We currently have a pool of note takers and other service providers, but can use more. A separate set of emails will be coming out regarding these opportunities to be of service to your community.

The meeting adjourned shortly before 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, July 28, Mount Baker Room

Thanks to Jim Tanner for taking notes, to Wendy Schoen for editing and formatting, and to all of you who participated.