

CEG Meeting Minutes—October 13, 2017

Sonia Baker, facilitator for this session, opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

COMMENTS ON THE PAST MONTH

Mayoral Forum on Homelessness: On September 28th, Saint James Cathedral Housing Advocacy Committee hosted a mayoral forum on homelessness. Shirley Adler noted that she was impressed with both Jenny Durkan and Cary Moon. Moon, among other things, noted the possible use of vacant land for mixed-income development.

Attorney General Robert Ferguson’s Q&A at Skyline: Bob Ferguson joined us again on October 3rd to talk about the Attorney General’s office, its staff, and its priorities. Peg Haggerty summarized his talk as a discussion of ongoing issues, disputes with the federal administration, and the Attorney General’s self-stated commitment to focus on issues of significance to Washington State residents that the AG’s office can effectively aid. The Attorney General was clear that there are issues of concern that are beyond the scope of effective action by the State’s legal representative.

Peg also noted the Attorney General’s praise for his Solicitor General, Noah Purcell. Purcell is a Franklin High Graduate who represented the State of Washington in oral argument before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Ferguson described Purcell as having the best legal mind he’s ever seen.

Peg also quoted one resident, who described General Ferguson’s visit as “a beacon of light in a dark and gloomy political scene.”

Candidate Forums: We have now conducted three of our five candidate forums: two City Council races and one Port Commission race. Meeting attendees provided the following comments about the forums to date:

Shirley Adler was impressed that the candidates have been able to disagree in a civil manner, articulating their positions without hostility or anger.

Mary Ann Hagan noted that the order of questions allowed for fairness, with each candidate getting the opportunity to respond first to one-half of the questions. She and others also noted the good humor of the candidates who were not used to this approach and were periodically confused about when to sit and when to stand.

Linda Wolfe praised the outstanding work done by the committees in formulating the questions, which should be helpful to those who may be new to the area and unfamiliar with local issues. (Jim Sanders noted that the committees organized and framed the questions based on resident submittals in August.)

Katherine Graubard noted that the forums provided new material for residents to consider, and that in some cases the forums had caused her to change her mind.

Jim Sanders asked specifically whether the ninety-minute format was too long; those attending the meeting felt that the format length was appropriate.

Sue VanLeuven noted that having a broader spectrum of issues, rather than just housing and homelessness, was useful.

COMING EVENTS

FairVote Charter Amendment 27 Kickoff: Sue VanLeuven brought to our attention an initiative sponsored by FairVote Washington. FairVote is a national nonprofit organization committed to advancing ranked choice voting. Ranked choice voting allows each voter to identify up to three candidate choices in each race, and to rank them as first, second, and third choices. FairVote Washington has filed a Charter Amendment 27 and held its kickoff rally on Saturday, October 14th. If adopted, this initiative would change voting for City of Seattle races to this format, rather than the top-two general election format we currently use.

Those interested can find additional information at <https://fairvotewa.org> and can find the text of the initiative at <https://fairvotewa.org/2017/09/23/seattle-ca27-full-language/>. The organization and its supporters will need to gather 31,000 signatures by March 2018 to place the initiative on the ballot.

Skyline Candidate Forums

Please join us at the two remaining forums noted below:

FORUM SCHEDULE

Monday, October 23, 2:30 p.m.*

Mayor of Seattle: Jenny Durkan and Cary Moon

*The mayoral candidates will join us around 2:30 p.m., with a start time of 2:45 p.m. This is a change in the starting time originally listed as 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.**

Port Comm. Position 4: Preeti Shridhar and Peter Steinbrueck

**The Port Commission Position 4 forum has been rescheduled due to an unanticipated scheduling conflict for one of these candidates. This forum was originally scheduled for Monday, October 16th, at 3:00 p.m.

OTHER IDEAS

Kim Wyman – Washington Secretary of State: Jim Sanders asked if there is interest in inviting Kim Wyman, Washington State Secretary of State, to speak to

us about voter fraud, voter suppression, and efforts to hack various election systems. The event would tentatively be held in January. Jim Tanner and Sue VanLeuven have agreed to help; others are welcome. If you are willing to help with this event, please contact Jim at jimsander1947@gmail.com.

Natural Resources Defense Council: Congressman Adam Smith suggested in his visit to Skyline earlier this year that residents consider becoming involved in existing organizations whose views they support. Sonia Baker suggested that the NRDC (National Resource Defense Council) is one of the more effective organizations involved in attempting to preserve and improve our physical environment. She is an active member and is willing to transmit information on NRDC and its activities to any who are interested. Sonia can be reached via email at sonebake@gmail.com. The NRDC URL is <https://www.nrdc.org> for those who may wish to go directly to the organization.

45th District State Senate Race: Sue VanLeuven expressed some interest in becoming involved in the 45th State Legislative Senate race. This race pits two newcomers, Manka Dhingra, Democrat, and Jinyoung Englund, Republican, against each other. This race is expected to determine party control of the Washington State Senate.

Those interested in becoming involved in the race or donating may wish to contact the campaigns directly at the following websites:

Republican: Jinyoung Englund
Website: <https://jinyoungenglund.com>
Office Phone: (425) 420-5345
Office Address: P.O. Box 302, Woodinville, WA 98072

Democrat: Manka Dhingra
Website: <http://www.electmanka.com>
Office Phone: None Listed
Mailing Address: PO Box P.O Box 2467, Redmond WA 98052

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, October 27th, 4:00 p.m., Mount Baker Room

Thanks to Sonia Baker for serving as our facilitator; Mary Ann Hagan and Jane Sanders for taking notes; Lilyan Snow and Wendy Schoen for editing and formatting this document; and to all of you who participated.