

CEG Meeting Minutes—January 26, 2018

Katherine Graubard, facilitator for this session, opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

CEG — ORIGINS, HISTORY, AND PURPOSE

Jim Sanders briefly reviewed how the Civic Engagement Group (CEG) began. One year ago during a dinner conversation, Frank and Joan Conlon and Jim and Jane Sanders wanted to create a platform at Skyline for sharing information and ideas to improve understanding of governmental affairs. They were hoping to encourage resident engagement with elected and appointed officials on policies and legislation in an environment that promotes civility and courtesy in political discussions. About 20 residents attended the initial meeting.

The CEG is a separate entity that is not a part of the Skyline Residents' Association. Organizational goals include sharing views with friends, colleagues, and family in other jurisdictions, and hopefully improving the tone of discussion. Guest Skyline speakers in 2017 included Dow Constantine (King County Executive), Congressman Adam Smith, UW Professor Kate Starbird (fake news), and Wayne Barnett (Democracy Voucher Program). Streamed events and candidate forums were also well received by Skyline residents.

Residents interested in becoming involved in CEG activities have signed on to an email distribution list, which announces upcoming meetings and events. A distribution list signup sheet is located at the table in back of the room.

PAST EVENTS

Diana Caplow reported on the 2018 Women's March, which took place on Saturday, January 20. Tens of thousands attended this march, including a number of Skyline residents. The march began with a rally at Carl Anderson Park, where many local officials spoke, including Mayor Jenny Durkan and City Council Member, Teresa Mosqueda.

Diana also attended a public forum on Sunday, January 21, where Jenny Durkan spoke again. The mayor noted that there are now 6 female members serving on the City Council of 9 members.

Diana brought some 2018 League of Women Voters pamphlets to this meeting for distribution to interested attendees.

Some less successful CEG activities in 2017 were study/planning groups, issue tracking, suggested reading materials, and listening circles.

COMING EVENTS

Jill Doherty will talk about Russia's foreign policy on Monday, February 19, at 2:30 p.m. in the Mt. Baker Room.

Judy Mayotte, a friend of the speaker, explained that Jill Doherty had been a CNN correspondent for many years, serving as its Moscow bureau chief for 10 years. Ms. Doherty is currently teaching at University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance and will return to the Wilson Center in Washington, DC, where she is a Wilson Scholar. Her talk at Skyline will focus on Putin and Russia's upcoming election.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO DO THIS YEAR?

1. Internal Communication

- a. Jim Sanders asked the attendees how often CEG should meet and when. Last year, the group met twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. After a short discussion, it was decided that CEG would now meet once a month on the 2nd Friday of the month. Should there be a need for a second meeting in the month, it would be scheduled on the 4th Friday of that month. *Note:* In addition to the monthly CEG meetings, a small working group meets regularly to discuss business related issues and to plan future events.
- b. Advance meeting agenda will be distributed by email and printed on the 725 Blog.
- c. Joan Horner suggested that reports on past events be omitted from the minutes, but no discussion or further comments were made.
- d. Lorraine Sakata asked for additional volunteers to take meeting notes during the CEG meetings. Michael Caplow and Donna McKinney volunteered.
- e. In Jim Tanner's absence, Jim Sanders explained the 725 Blog, which is a resource for residents to learn about in-house happenings. A calendar of events and useful websites can also be found on this blog. There is a handout available on how to access the 725 Blog. The password for access is "Bistro."
- f. Email notices is one method of distributing meeting minutes, notices, and alerts to residents who have signed up on the email distribution list. If you want to send something out to those on the list, send it first to Jim Sanders, and he will then send it on to Rick Baugh for distribution.

2. In-House Educational Events

Katherine Graubard received the following suggestions for future speakers:

- a. Nicole Macri for her reflections on her first year as Washington state representative
- b. Secretary of State Kim Wyman
- c. Governor Jay Inslee
- d. State senators Jamie Pedersen and Frank Chopp
- e. Centrist Project speaker Chris Vance
- f. Presentation on open spaces from representatives from the National Parks and the State Commission on Public Lands
- g. Someone to talk about opioid treatment centers
- h. Democratic party representative to talk about the split between center and left of center within the party
- i. Initiative 940 regarding police training and the use of deadly force
- j. Issues before the City Council: housing and homelessness, welcome cities (sanctuary cities), paid parental leave, marijuana use in Seattle
- k. Gun safety issues (may be better addressed via the state—cities cannot do their own legislation under Washington law)
- l. Are we safer with an increased nuclear arsenal?
- m. Climate change (as an activism issue, not a technical discussion)

3. Linkage/Cooperation with Other Groups

Tom Gibbs reported on several city and county projects where input from Skyline and FHIA (First Hill Improvement Association) is important.

- a. We have had success with our letter writing in convincing King County Metro to keep the current bus routes for lines 3 and 4. We will have another opportunity to send our input to them regarding improvements to the bus stop on James Street.
- b. Donna McKinny mentioned the Madison Street Bus Rapid Transit project slated to begin in 2018. Tom Gibbs explained that they still need to secure further funding, and FHIA is monitoring the project closely.
- c. The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) passed a levy to improve and repair Seattle streets and sidewalks but little progress has been made concerning improvement plans for First Hill. Frank Conlon reminded us that SDOT promised to make and paint a crosswalk on the west side of 9th and Columbia a year ago, but little has been done since.

4. Live Streaming External Events

- a. Joan Horner reported that Town Hall events will no longer be available for streaming during their renovation project.
- b. Katherine Graubard asked for volunteers to learn how to use Skyline's projection equipment to stream programs in the MBR.

5. Other Ideas

- a. Joan Conlon recommended a talk at Folio (a Seattle cultural center at 314 Marion Street) on *The Limits of Presidential Power*, by Lisa Manheim and Lisa Watts. This talk will take place on Thursday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m.
- b. Joan Conlon also mentioned the following two charities of note with ties to Skyline residents Lois Spratlen and Hollis Williams:
 - i. Mary Mahoney Professional Nurses Association—an organization that encourages women of color to pursue a nursing career.
 - ii. Paralyzed Veterans of America—a United Way charity.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, February 9, 2018, 4:00 p.m., Mt. Baker Room

Thanks to Katherine Graubard for serving as our facilitator, to Suzanne Hittman and Mary Ann Hagan for taking notes, to Lorraine Sakata for organizing and consolidating the meeting notes, to Wendy Schoen for editing and formatting this document, and to all of you who participated.