

CEG Meeting—November 8, 2019

Putnam Barber, Facilitator, opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Sky Club

PAST EVENTS

David Domke, American Demagogues & the Future of Democracy, Parts 2-4
October 14, 21, and 28, 2019, 3:00 p.m., Mt. Baker Room (David O’Hara)

David O’Hara reported that Dr. David Domke spoke in his usual direct and informal style and presented a lot of interesting information. At the last session, he reported that other CCRCs have set up groups in support of his organization (“Common Purpose”) and that Peggy Newsom is leading an effort to get such a group started among Skyline residents. There will be a meeting at Skyline soon with a representative of Domke’s organization to explore that idea further. David O’Hara also reported that Domke said he was very grateful for the amount of money that had been raised from Skyline residents (a total of about \$12,000).

Peace and Justice Interest Group: Initiatives 1000 and 976

Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 3:30 p.m. Mt. Baker Room (David O’Hara)

David O’Hara also reported on the discussion of two initiatives: 1000 (affirmative action) and 976 (\$30 car tabs). He said that as of this afternoon, 1000 is too close to call and that it was clear from the voting patterns that King County is very different from the rest of the state. King County, Whatcom County, and Jefferson County voted for 1000 by a large margin and equally strongly against 976, while most of the rest of the state went in the opposite direction. It was observed that the chances are good that some portions of 976 will be ruled unconstitutional. King County and the City of Seattle have already signaled that they intend to sue to overturn initiative 976. One participant suggested that the Attorney General’s office should sell tickets to watch its lawyers tackle the task of defending 976, given that the AG spoke out strongly against it. *Note:* The Attorney General’s office is legally required to presume and defend the constitutionality of any adopted legislation regardless of the likelihood of success.

3rd District General Election Candidate Forum

Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 7:30 p.m. Mt. Baker Room (Jim Tanner)

Candidates: Kshama Sawant (current City Councilmember) and Egan Orion. Jim Tanner felt that both candidates did a good job of responding to the questions, which were sent to them in advance. There was strong support in the room for continuing that practice at future candidate forums. One person commented that he had difficulty hearing one of the candidates. Several people thought that a few of

the questions seemed redundant and that the event itself could have been shorter—possibly with fewer questions.

Skyline Soapbox, General Election

Tuesday, October 29, 2019, 2:30 p.m., Mt. Baker Room (Jim Tanner)

Jim Tanner also talked about the Soapbox. He said that it was a valuable exchange, especially on the less-publicized races and ballot titles. Some participants felt that the event would have been stronger if there had been volunteers who gave brief (5-sentence) introductions to each of the topics under discussion. Another suggested that in addition to the Voters' Pamphlet, it might have been helpful to provide participants with several website links to check out in advance of the soapbox. One participant commented that the announcements of the Soapbox should have given more specific information about what could be expected to happen and how this event would be organized.

WACCRA Update – Rick Baugh

There have been several important developments in WACCRA's efforts to move legislation forward in the coming session. It is necessary to have a clear sense of the goal that can be communicated to legislators by the end of this month. The Senate Committee on Health and Long-Term Care organized four site visits—all at places where the management had been in opposition to the legislation during the last session. At the last stop at Emerald Heights, WACCRA board members and over 150 Emerald Heights residents met with the Committee. The Committee was surprised at the depth and breadth of the issues the residents had with management. Out of those meetings, they arranged for a mediation session between representatives of WACCRA and Leading Age. That session only covered one of the possible topics, but it was clear that Leading Age opposes any legislation. The answers to the brief survey recently circulated by WACCRA on what is the top issue were very helpful. For example, the fact that many respondents gave highest priority to establishment of an Ombuds program for independent living residents contradicts strongly the claim by Leading Age that there are no residents who are worried about their inability to come to an agreement with management on a residential issue. There has been a tremendous response to the original WACCRA Consumer Guide to CCRCs. It resulted in a much-improved second edition of the guide. (If you still have the earlier edition, Rick recommends that you discard it and download a copy of the new version from <http://www.waccra.org>.)

The WACCRA annual meeting will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2020. A nationally recognized attorney who is an expert on CCRC issues, Katherine Pearson from the Penn State Law School, will be the speaker. Attendance is

expected to be high—probably too many people to fit into any space at Skyline or Horizon House (not to mention the parking and traffic problems in this area).

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Hill Improvement Association Meeting

November 12, 2019, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Frye Art Museum

Agenda:

- Freeway Park Improvements and Renovations, Riisa Conklin, Freeway Park Association.
- First Hill Construction and Street Closures, Johanna Landherr, SDOT.
- 901 Madison Development, Andrew Brown, Sustainable Living Solutions.
- FHIA Update

Mayor Jenny Durkan: Maintaining Livability in a Boom Town

November 18, 2019, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Pigott Auditorium, Seattle University

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maintaining-livability-in-a-boomtown-conversation-with-mayor-jenny-durkan-registration-79360570603>

Possible Future Speakers (for January 2020 and later)

During the meeting discussion, the following list of possible speakers was revised and a couple of new ideas were suggested:

1. Denise Juneau, Superintendent, Seattle Public Schools
2. Lisa Manheim, UW Law professor with specialization in election and constitutional law
3. Jesús Aguirre, Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation
4. Mike Kreidler, Insurance Commissioner
5. The Importance of Newspapers—possibly organize a panel with Frank Blethen (*Seattle Times*), David Brewster (formerly of *Crosscut*), Art Thiel (*Sportspress Northwest*), or other media resources.
6. If you are interested in helping to secure a speaker for a future CEG meeting (one of the above, or someone else), send Rick Baugh a note (crbaugh@crbaugh.com) and he will connect you with Jim Sanders, Put Barber, or others with experience in organizing events at Skyline. Jim Sanders offered some written materials that outline much of what is required. Jim also said that he has had good luck, even when he has no direct

connection, by just calling possible speakers and explaining what we are looking for.

Open Discussion

General Election Results: It was noted that Kshama Sawant has an apparently unsurmountable lead in the 3rd City Council District and that the vote on Initiative 1000 is currently too close to call.

Next Meeting: Friday, January 10, 2020

Mt. Baker Room: 4:00 p.m.

(Note: There is no December meeting planned.)

Thanks to Putnam Barber for facilitating the session and for taking notes; to Wendy Schoen for final editing and formatting of this document; and to all of you who participated.