

CEG Meeting—February 14, 2020

Putnam Barber, Facilitator, opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Mt. Baker Room.

PAST EVENTS

Carrie Campbell, Seattle Schools' Director of Communications

Friday, January 24, 2020, 3:00 p.m., Mt. Baker Room (Suzanne Hittman)

Suzanne reported that Carri Campbell talked with us about the efforts the district is making to ensure the success of young black male students, who are currently disproportionately falling behind in the early grades. David O'Hara recalled the earlier presentation here, on Martin Luther King Day, when the speaker talked more generally about the ways black students face difficulties at school.

The complexity of the Seattle School District's financing, also a topic of Campbell's talk, astonished Put Barber. Jim Sanders added that the district must use a very large spreadsheet to keep track of all the different sources of funding and related restrictions.

First Hill Improvement Association Meeting

Thursday, January 30, 2020, Murano (Frank Conlon)

Frank noted that the First Hill Improvement Association has been active since the 1960s, but has become more active and visible recently. (Its formation originated during the design of I-5 due to the limited connections that the first plans offered between downtown and the neighborhood.) Frank asked how many people in the room were members (about half raised their hands); he urged the rest to join (<http://www.firsthill.org>). The Association now has several committees focused on various aspects of life in this part of town that have considerable influence on related city departments.

Topics at the 20th January meeting included:

- A bond issue under discussion that would fund major changes and improvements on the Harborview Hospital campus (including a direct new midrise building in what is now the view park to the west of the main building).
- A report on the Black Farmers' Collective that is developing a P-Patch-like area west of Yesler Terrace, which has resulted in some friction with recently arrived Africans living in the area.
- A brief sketch of the still-forming plans to make the two blocks of Terry Avenue between Marion and Cherry into a festival street (with funding

provided by the Convention Center as compensations for the closing of some alleys in connection with its new construction).

Terry Avenue Greenway Update

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 (Sue VanLeuven).

Sue added that she had attended a design forum on the festival street idea earlier in the week. The plans include cooperation with the new building across the street from the Frye that will make it easier for events to take place on that block (e.g., electrical and water outlets that can easily be connected for food trucks or musicians, and public seating areas beside the right-of-way). Sue said the design team is seeking public input both online and from pen-and-paper questionnaires. She offered some hard copies to people at the meeting and promised that the link to the online version would be included in these minutes. (To view online version, see <https://bit.ly/2OTxBMI>). There will be two further design meetings in the future. Frank commented that he hoped the publicity and dates for the next two meetings would be clearer.

David Domke Election Year Lecture Series

Tuesday, February 4th (2:00 p.m.); Wednesday, February 5th (1:30 p.m.), and Friday, February 7th (3:30 p.m.), Mt. Baker Room (Put Barber for Peggy Newsom)

The first set of three lectures addressed the Democratic candidates and were well attended and well received. Domke will return in April for three more lectures on the Republican candidates (dates to be determined).

This year's Domke lectures will soon be posted as videos on the Skyline Portal (as they were in 2019). To view them, open <https://login.caremerge.com/login/> in a web browser, then click on *Videos* in the left-hand menu, then on *2020 Presentations*, and then on *FEB* in the top menu.

Healthcare Online Forum

Saturday, February 8, 2020 (Put).

Put reported that he participated in an online forum about options for health-care policy sponsored by the Kettering Foundation and the National Issues Forum. The format was interesting, and he said that he found himself learning more about the subject through the discussion, even though he was one of only three participants (the other two were from the east coast!). There will be additional online events in this series, which may be of interest to CEG participants. To find out more, visit the National Issues Forum website at <https://www.nifi.org/en/hidden-common->

[ground](#). The moderator from NIF said that sometimes the Hidden Common Ground forums have as many as 100 participants.

COMING EVENTS

Soapbox Session for the Washington State Presidential Primary

Friday, February 21, 2020, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., Mt. Baker Room (Jim Sanders).

Jim outlined the process that will be followed for the Soapbox event. Residents will be given up to two minutes to talk about their preferred candidate. Only candidates on the Washington State Ballot, who have not suspended their campaign (nine as of 2/14), will be considered. There will be successive rounds of candidates discussed, with one speaker for each candidate in each round. The expectation is that speakers will concentrate on their reasons for preferring the candidate (but not disparaging any other candidates). The timekeeper will be prepared to blow the whistle (the familiar train whistle) at the two-minute mark. Ballots for the Primary will be mailed February 21st, and must be returned by **March 10th**.

The 43rd District Delegation in the Washington Legislature Town Hall

Saturday, February 22, 2020, First Baptist Church, 1:30 p.m. (Put).

The Skyline bus leaving at 1:15 p.m. will provide transportation—sign up closes on February 19th (see sign-up sheet in binder on the 5th floor). This is a good chance to hear from Senator Jaime Pedersen and Representatives Frank Chopp and Nicole Macri about what’s been going on in Olympia.

Anne McCullough, Executive Director, First Hill Improvement Association

Monday, March 2, 2020, 3:00 p.m., Mt. Baker Room (Frank Conlon).

Anne McCullough will be here to speak about the work of this association. Frank Conlon pointed out that she is a neighbor, living in the apartment building Leading Age just bought on Cherry Street.

WACCRA Update and Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., Emerald Heights (Rick Baugh).

Much has been happening for WACCRA in recent weeks. Rick Baugh mentioned some of the highlights.

- With help from a professional mediator, four representatives of WACCRA and four Executive Directors from CCRCs have reached agreement on three of the four issues, two of which are addressed in the legislation that is being

considered during this legislative session. If enough CCRC Executive Directors or CEOs sign on to these three specified practices, WACCRA will ask that the legislation be withdrawn. The three practices are 1) 24-month time limit on refunds (with some exceptions for extraordinary circumstances); 2) an opportunity for a resident council designated group of residents to receive information from the full actuarial studies if they have been done; and 3) a process for a resident council specified committee or task force providing input to pending decisions and management providing rationale for the final decision, taking into consideration resident input.

- On the fourth element that WACCRA has been seeking—a dispute resolution process for residents in which the idea of involving the state’s Ombuds program had been considered—WACCRA and the LeadingAge team have agreed to continue meeting to explore options over the coming months.
- WACCRA’s annual meeting will take place on Saturday, March 7th, at Emerald Heights from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The keynote speaker will be Professor Katherine Pearson from the Pennsylvania State University Law School, a nationally recognized expert on the legal environment for CCRCs. Transportation to the meeting will be provided by the Skyline bus (at the usual fee). **Sign up in the binder on the 5th floor before March 4th.**
- The Long-Term Care Ombuds Office seeks to have its budget restored after \$300,000 was accidentally dropped in the 2019 legislature. A WACCRA News-Mail will be sent to legislators to vote for that budget. There will be few advocates expressing the desire to restore the budget, so please respond.

Robert Zarate, Director, Bishop Lewis House

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 3:30 p.m., Mt. Baker Room (David O’Hara).

Robert Zarate, the Community Corrections Supervisor for the Work Release Program at Bishop Lewis House, will speak on March 18th at Skyline at a program arranged by the Peace & Justice Committee. The Bishop Lewis House is located at 8th and Cherry, across the street from Skyline, and provides a work-release program through the Department of Corrections. David O’Hara said there had been a similar program 8 years ago that was well received.

Knute Berger, Speaker

Tuesday, March 31, 2020, 11:00 a.m., Mt. Baker Room (Put).

Knute (“Skip”) Berger, who is an author, a *Crosscut* columnist, and KCTS-9 commentator, will come to Skyline to talk about his impressions of the current state of journalism.

Online Opportunities

Mary Jane Francis suggested some online opportunities to enable those with limitations that restrict active physical participation to become involved this year. The following are some organizations you can contribute to or otherwise support in whatever ways are needed:

- **Vote Forward** – <https://votefwd.org/>. Be sure to scroll down on this site to see campaigns in critical states (Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Arizona, Florida, etc.)
- **Movement Voter Project** – <https://movement.vote/>
- **Force Multiplier** – <https://www.forcemultiplierma.org/about-fm>
- **Fair Fight** – <https://fairfight.com/about-fair-fight/>

Possible Future Speaker

Put asked the group if there is interest in hearing from Seattle-based pollster Stuart Ellway. The reaction was that it would be great if he would come and tell us about his work. Put will contact Stuart Ellway.

HB 2575 – Washington State Legislature

The legislature is considering HB 2575, inspired by the League of Women Voters, which, if passed, would make some changes to improve the redistricting process before the report of the 2020 Census leads to redistricting in 2021. The LWV is looking for support for passage of this bill during this year’s short session. (If it is not passed, the current process will govern redistricting next year.) A note has already been sent with more information about the bill and how to help it through the legislative process.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting: March 13, 2020
Mt. Baker Room: 4:00 p.m.**

Thanks to Putnam Barber for facilitating the session; to Put Barber for taking notes for the minutes (with assistance from Rick Baugh, Frank Conlon, Mary Jane Francis, David O'Hara, Jim Sanders, and Sue VanLeuven); to Wendy Schoen for final editing and formatting of this document; and to all who participated.