

## **CEG Meeting—March 13, 2020**

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

### **PAST EVENTS**

#### **Presidential Soapbox Session for the Washington State Primary**

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

Put Barber briefly described the Presidential Primary Soapbox and felt it was a good learning experience. He was impressed by the way some speakers were able to keep their remarks positive, while still managing to suggest that the candidate under discussion was not who they preferred. Put recalled that we had been encouraged to wait until after “Super Tuesday” to vote, which enabled him to mark his ballot for one of the candidates still actively participating in the race. In regard to the current tally in Washington today, Put reported that there were still votes to be counted, but that at the moment, Biden was 27,000 votes ahead of Sanders. That led to a question about how Washington allocates delegates to the national convention following the primary. Jim Sanders explained that the Democratic party rules allocate convention delegates based on the vote totals in Congressional Districts (which have not yet been calculated). The rules also assign differing numbers of delegates to each district, so there will be 4 delegates from the 4<sup>th</sup> district, while the 7<sup>th</sup> district will have 10 delegates. He said that he did not know how those numbers had been established. Another questioner asked what happens to delegates who are elected because of support for a candidate who is no longer actively in the race. Jim answered that those delegates can be released by the non-active candidate and can then vote for another current candidate at the convention. However, the non-active candidate cannot dictate who those delegates should vote for.

Katherine Graubard said she would be talking with Tina Podlodowski, the Democratic Party Chair, on Monday and offered to pass along any resident questions emailed to her at [graubard@uw.edu](mailto:graubard@uw.edu) before her phone call.

#### **The 43<sup>rd</sup> District Delegation Town Hall (with Washington State Senator Jamie Pedersen, and Representatives Frank Chopp and Nicole Macri)**

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

Describing it as “a bit of a ruckus,” Jim Sanders reported on the topics addressed at the First Baptist Church event. The meeting was dominated by the issue of a

payroll tax to add funds to the effort to address homelessness. In the legislature, a bill to authorize county-wide payroll taxes initially gained support, but when the businesses who supported it asked that it also prevent cities (preemption) from enacting similar taxes, the legislature was unable to reach an agreement, and the bill died. Councilmember Sawant has been energetically promoting a similar city tax, and her supporters were at the Town Hall in large numbers. A couple of times they interrupted the program to insist that there should be time for public comment (in addition to the written questions that were being passed to the front of the room and posed to the legislators). The moderator agreed, and 15 minutes of public comment were scheduled for the last part of the meeting. Two of the “No Preemption” organizers then quickly went to the middle aisles and signaled their associates to line up to speak. When their time came, the speakers were emphatic that there should be no pre-emption of local taxes if the legislature acted on the bill that had been introduced, while strongly supporting a city tax.

Further discussion at the CEG meeting reported on the following other actions taken (or not taken) by the legislature in the session:

- Low-carbon fuels—in the end, not passed primarily due to opposition from truck operators and because it did not dedicate any of the proposed new tax revenue to addressing transportation needs.
- A single clearinghouse for responding to applications for concealed-carry permits for gun owners—passed. Peggy Newsom added that several other firearm-related legislations had also been approved.
- Comprehensive sex education in public schools—passed. It is expected that an initiative will be filed to overturn this new requirement by people who do not think that this subject should be the responsibility of schools.
- Budget for the Ombuds office—the funds that were mistakenly cut in the last session were restored. It is not clear whether the additional \$10,000 for expansion of the program was passed.
- Reciprocity of licensing for nurses—failed.

Rick Baugh suggested that it would be a good idea for residents of Skyline to write thank-you notes to our senator and representatives to acknowledge their interest in and support for legislation (which in the end was withdrawn) that was designed to achieve WACCRA’s goals. “Legislators don’t often get warm fuzzies,” he said, “and they deserve to be recognized for their responsiveness to our issues.” (The reason the bill was withdrawn is described below in the report on the WACCRA Annual Meeting.)

**Anne McCullough, ED, Executive Director, First Hill Improvement Assn.**  
Monday, March 2, 2020, 3:00 p.m., Mt. Baker Room.

When Anne McCullough was here, Frank Conlon reported that she described progress on the Terry Avenue Greenway and on the redevelopment of First Hill Park. He noted that the design and permitting phases for the park have taken several years—“a good example of ‘Seattle Process’ in action.” While here, McCullough encouraged the audience to complete a survey about the Terry Avenue project and distributed survey forms. Frank added that a couple of days after her appearance here, the Association announced that McCullough would be leaving Seattle to return to the St. Louis area where she will be working for an experimental farm and guiding canoe tours on the Mississippi. (McCullough had led kayaking excursions off Alki Point here.) Doug Holtom, currently the project coordinator at FHIA, will serve as interim director, while a search for a permanent director takes place. Dave O’Hara said he had been very disappointed by the image of the park next to the 800 Columbia building that she had shown—“a parking lot without any cars!” Frank replied that FHIA has no control over the design of that park (a public-private partnership with the developer) and that there are likely to be many more twists in the path before it is finished. Others commented on the very bright lights that are on the crane at that site (the “Turner” and “Daniels” moons). Apparently, there have been equipment failures in the controls that are supposed to turn them off. Frank was told that Ryan Miller has had several conversations with the developer about this issue. Put added that he had again expressed his frustration with the lack of adequate stop signs on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Doug Holtom’s answer was that the signs would not be changed in the short run and that the city is waiting until the construction on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue is completed to assess whether there is a need for additional stop signs.

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **WACCRA Update and Annual Meeting**

Friday, May 22, 2020 (Postponed from March 7<sup>th</sup>) (Rick Baugh)

Because large meetings are not possible now, Rick reported that WACCRA has postponed its Annual Meeting until May 22<sup>nd</sup>. That is a date when Kathleen Pearson, the scheduled keynote speaker, is available to come to Washington. If it is not possible to hold the meeting then, it is not yet clear when it might be rescheduled. Pearson is a professor of Law at Penn State and is a recognized expert on legal issues affecting senior citizens and especially CCRCs. Put suggested that anyone interested might want to look at the published articles on her website (<https://sites.psu.edu/professorkatherinecpearson/>).

Rick went on to explain what happened in this year's legislature. After last year's session, the Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee toured four CCRCs and learned firsthand about residents' interests and concerns. LeadingAge arranged the tour. WACCRA was part of the tour at the last CCRC. As a result of listening to residents, Senator Annette Cleveland, Chair of the Health and Long-Term Care Committee, suggested that a process of mediation with WACCRA and LeadingAge might identify areas of common interest. Both organizations agreed and held four productive sessions with a professional mediator, who had been suggested by Senator Cleveland. The outcome is a plan in which the managements of all Washington State CCRCs will enter into agreements with their residents that will take effect on January 1, 2021. These agreements will specify the following:

- If actuarial studies are done, a qualified group of residents selected by the resident association will have access to specified information.
- Refunds of refundable entry fees must, in most cases, be made within 24 months.
- Management will give resident councils (or their equivalents) information about pending decisions affecting residents in advance, listen to any comments or suggestions, and explain the rationale for the ultimate decision.

LeadingAge is working with the CCRCs across the state to implement these agreements, and as a result, the legislation that had been passed by the House during the 2020 session was allowed to die in Senator Cleveland's committee. (If all the CCRCs do not actually sign the agreements, WACCRA plans to introduce legislation again next year.)

**POSTPONED: Robert Zarate, Director, Bishop Lewis House.**

Originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 3:30 p.m., Mt. Baker Room

**POSTPONED: Knute Berger, Editor-at-Large, *Crosscut***

Originally scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 2020, 11:00 a.m., Mt. Baker Room.

Put reported that he and Darrell Wong from the Lifestyle office successfully demonstrated that it would be feasible to have a speaker from outside the building make a presentation in the Mt. Baker Room using the internet. (Put connected with Darrell from his apartment and appeared on the screens; both he and Darrell could see and hear clearly what was happening at the other end.) Unfortunately, Knute Berger was not willing to present in this way. However, if future speakers cannot appear in person at Skyline, the same arrangements could be proposed to them, making it possible for them to speak to Skyline residents remotely.

**Stuart Elway, Elway Research, Inc. (political and public interest polling)**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

When approached about speaking, Elway joked, “I don’t think there will be much to talk about this year.” He is nonetheless currently scheduled to talk here about his long career doing political and opinion polling in Washington State.

**Lonnie Lusardo, The Diversity Collaborative (author of *The Anatomy of Organized Hate*)**

Wednesday, April 29, 2020 (P&J)

Lusardo’s book includes profiles of several people who were once deeply involved with organized hate groups. These people have since left these hate groups and, in some cases, have become active in exposing and opposing such groups. The book is quite chilling in the way it describes how hard it was for them to separate and the fear that followed them once they were no longer involved with the organizations.

**David Domke, Election Year Lecture Series**

Peggy Newsom reported that she has asked Domke if he would be willing to make his planned next series of talks here using a remote connection, but she has not yet heard back from him. The next three talks, originally scheduled for April, were going to cover the development of the present-day Republican Party. These lectures were to be followed in the Fall by three talks on the 2020 election. Since Dr. Domke will not be able to give the talks at the University of Washington’s Kane Hall in the near future, he may not be willing to give them for our smaller group here at Skyline.

**Discussion**

**Ways to Encourage More Resident Participation in the Civic Engagement Group**

- If Town Hall is live-streaming events while they cannot happen in person, we may be able to arrange to have some of these broadcasts shown at Skyline so we can watch them together.
- A brief description of the CEG could be included in the new resident packet.
- A brief presentation might be made at one of the SRA quarterly meetings.
- When someone from the CEG has been the organizer of an activity at Skyline, that fact could be announced at the start of the program by saying that the idea originated at a CEG meeting.

- As audiences gather to hear a speaker, a title slide could be displayed that mentions that the speaker's invitation was initiated at a CEG meeting.
- A notice could be posted on the bulletin board in the mailroom listing the regular schedule for CEG meetings (second Fridays at 4:00 p.m.).

### **Suggestions for Future Speakers**

None were suggested at today's meeting. Ideas can be sent to Put at [putnam.barber@gmail.com](mailto:putnam.barber@gmail.com).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

**Next Meeting: April 10, 2020  
Mt. Baker Room: 4:00 p.m.**

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