

Benton County General Meeting

May 15, 2019

7:00 PM

Uptown Theater, Richland, WA

Proposed Agenda

7:30 Call meeting to Order - Request volunteer secretary for the mtg

7:30 Approve Agenda (1 min)

7:32 Approve minutes of April meeting (1 min)

7:33 Chair's report (3 min)

- Norm Miller Dinner
- Elections coming up/filing week

7:39 Treasurer's Report (3 min)

(Chair requests increase in Communications budget)

Committee Reports

7:42 State Committee Member Reports (3 min each)

Kate Moran & Jay Clough

7:48 Elections Committee - Needs chair (2 min)

7:50 Events Committee - Carl Baker (5 min)

7:55 Communications Committee - Judi Johannesen (3 min)

7:58 PCO Organization Committee - Allison Dabler (5 min) - Appoint new PCOs

8:03 Platform & Resolutions Committee - Kitty Tominey (5 min)

8:08 Old Business (5 min)

8:13 New Business (5 min)

8:18 Good of the Order (5 min)

8:23 Adjourn

Minutes:

Secretary's Note: Many heart-felt thanks to Alisha Victorine and Stan Moon for covering for your secretary's recent absence without whom these minutes would not have been possible.

Call to order Chair Judi Johannesen- 7:34 p.m.

Volunteer Secretary Alisha Victorine, Kendall Miller attending a play rehearsal

Adoption of Agenda- motion, 2nd, carried

Adoption of Minutes- motion, 2nd, carried

Officer Reports-

Chair- Judi, link to purchase tickets to the Norm Miller dinner is up. Carl Baker has been announced for leadership award. Bob Ferguson Keynote speaker. (5:30 social, 6:15 dinner)

The filing for the 2019 elections has ended. There are several candidates present. Jay Clough is running for the Richland School Board, Kate Moran is running for the West Richland City Council. We need to support them. They have availed themselves of recent training opportunities and bring their own experience as candidates to the playing field. We have many opportunities to support them as concerned voters.

The candidates were invited to speak about their respective races.

Kate Moran gave a brief statement about her campaign. Since her last run for office, she has significantly increased her participation in volunteer activities for the city of West Richland. She is a member of the West Richland Advisory Board and the chair of the West Richland Planning Commission. A key focus of her campaign is to increase the amount of businesses located there to enhance the city's viability beyond being a "bedroom" community for the larger metropolitan area. This would serve to keep property and utility taxes lower for the citizens of West Richland. She would also like to have the council meetings and other civic activities recorded in video and made available online. The city staffs of Pasco and Kennewick have also been part of this discussion.

Richland. Candidates opportunity to speak...

- Kate- Running again. Ran 2 years ago. Board Member for advisory board in W.R. Chair of

Planning Commission. Hope to get more business involved in W.R. Development and

economic growth in the community. Working with City Staffs of Pasco and Kennewick to

view city council meetings online and bring transparency to West Richland.

[There was a question about parks and recreation activities in West Richland.] Currently, developers are required to provide green space according to a formula based on the square footage of their development. Alternatively, they can provide addition funding to the city of West Richland for general parks and recreation development. Kate would like to see the funding requirement increased or the green space requirement be not optional. The city staff has been developing a proposal on the detail of this effort. [The questioner expressed a desire to see more city-sponsored recreational activities in addition to the development of physical spaces.] Kate invited the questioner to talk more about it with her offline.

Jay Clough spoke about his school board campaign. He has a second grader and a preschooler who will be attending Richland schools this year. He started by volunteering with the schools but since starting the campaign, it's been like drinking from the firehose from all the issues being faced by the district at the present time. Experienced people have told him that it's the worst situation that they have ever had. He sees that the school board is lacking in transparency, empathy, and precise communication. The communication so far on Richland school issues has been inaccurate and unduly alarmist about staff reductions. He wants to improve that and make the RSD a place for excellent education in a sustainable manner.

[Question. Do you have any recommendation for the other School Board races?] First of all, whoever wins, I'm going to have to work with them. The current deputy superintendent is a polarizing figure and whoever is associated with her is not favored by the teachers of the Richland Education Association. Lori Wasner is preferred for position 5. I like Rick Donahoe for position 3.

[Question. You used the word transparency. In other contexts, "transparency" has been a false flag reference to mean that the candidate is signaling that he or she intends to attack the labor bargaining process by not allowing bargaining sessions to be private. I hope that isn't what you mean by the use of the word.] No, that isn't how I'm using the word. I'm a labor guy. I'm with the IEW, I sit on the HAEIF Advisory Committee as Chair of the Grants subcommittee, and member of the Public Loans Subcommittee. The bargaining process needs to be protected. In the recent news about RSD's financial issues, the board developed a range of scenarios for dealing with the problems. However, they only exposed the worst-case scenario to the press and thereby inflamed the public concern and discussion. I consider this to be disingenuous. I won't give opinions on issues that I haven't researched. And I'm not going to mislead the public about any of the issues, especially not as some sort of public relations strategy.

Treasurer's Report

Micki McKinley: Savings at \$7,674, checking at \$8,770. The Norm & Shirley Miller Banquet has brought in \$4k. We spent \$200 on storage. Total funds, \$20,422.

Chair comment: Since our storage costs are zeroing out for the rest of the year, I would like to see us move the savings from storage payments into the Communications Committee budget. I would like to reach Independents and soft Republicans through ads in local paper and on Facebook. With this money we could do more to put out messages that help identify our values to the public-at-large and to help potential voters be encouraged to register to vote.

Kate Moran: I move to transfer the funds that were planned to pay for storage for the balance of the year into the communications committee budget. 2nd.

There was a brief discussion of communications ideas including a single-page handout for PCO's to use, the development of a suite of materials available on the website that our people can grab and use whenever, and any other great ideas should can be shared to the Communications Committee (Judi, Alisha, Allison).

Motion carried on voice vote

Secretary-absent

Vice Chair- running tech tonight

Events Committee- absent. Judi reminded the group that PRIDE week is coming up at the end of May and beginning of June. The 4th of July parade and the Benton-Franklin County Fair are on the horizon.

Elections Committee- Judi- Former Chair is now candidate so I need a new chair.

PCO committee- Allison- Precinct 3550 is Christine Brown's area. She is appointed as PCO this evening. (applause) Moved/seconded/passed

Platform and Resolution Committee- Kitty- She passed out handouts with resolutions they're looking at. She had a question on when best to schedule working sessions. Are meetings on weekday evenings better or on weekends? Please email Kitty if interested with your preferred meeting time (weekday evening or weekend). We have approved resolutions submitted to the state central committee. Next opportunity to send in is Sept 20th to State. Target is to run a rough draft through the body at July 17 meeting for input, have final version ready for August 20 meeting and send it to the state by Sept 20th.

Unfinished Business- Judi- Lease signed at this location through Nov 18th, 2020.

New Business- none

Good of the order-

- Allison- Budget cuts to Education- Kennewick cut their choir programs. Please attend Wednesday, May 22nd Kennewick School Board will be meeting at 5:30 p.m. 1000 4th Ave Kennewick.
- Initiative 940 DeEscalate WA training for police to handle crisis and mental health issues. Public comment ends May 23rd email them/contact @ deinput@cjtc.state.wa.us. Public forums will be held before Dec TBD
- Christine- We're all extremely concerned. Share with people our disgust, worry and unhappiness. Community protest. Be here, be heard. Will organize dates, times, and locations to protest outside of the usual locations. Homemade signs. Doing something is better than doing nothing.
- Jay- June 8th Save the Date, small gathering for his campaign @ Columbia Park "listening session". Signs for yards available
- Trey Q- Inslee Bill- Yakima had 40% Latino population but had 0 representation. Learn more about it- anyone know? Judi: Can you write a white paper for the next meeting on this- Trey agreed.
- Kate- June 20th Save the Date- Kick off for Council. Go to votekateforcouncil.com

- Judi- June 19th next meeting

Move to adjourn, 2nd, carried 8:16