

Oregon Trail Democrats

Minutes of February 28, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. on February 28th by President Nick Walden Poublon.

Attendees: Steve Winkler, Mike Weinberg, Jan Lee, Nick Walden Poublon, Ken Holladay, Wendy Holladay, Naella Tesch, Diane Jufkosky, Sannye Phillips, Dennis Ghelfi, Susan Drew, Roger Fantz, Walt Trandum, and guest Commissioner Martha Schrader

Minutes: Sannye Phillips moved approval of the minutes of January 24, 2023, as written. Mike Weinberg seconded the motion and it was approved by acclamation.

Treasurer Report: Ken Holladay reported that the balance as of the last meeting was \$1,044.02. A total of \$120 in dues and donations was received since then with expenses totaling \$699.87. Of that amount, \$644.87 was for fees to IPage, which supports our website work. The current balance is \$864.15.

President's Report: The president reported on the warming shelter now in operation at Ant Farm and his experience there. The shelter currently is housing 7 or 8, from Estacada and Sandy. People from Estacada are brought to Sandy rather than having two separate shelters. The Sandy Police Department has been helpful in watching for people who need shelter. He also reported that he will be running for the Sandy Fire District board position up for election in May.

Speaker Commissioner Martha Schrader: Martha started in 2003 as a county commissioner. She worked hard to expand the Sandy Library and served on the county library board. She also served in the Oregon Legislature. She is a biologist by trade, formerly working for the Oregon Department of Agriculture. She saw being involved could help the community grow responsibly and was led to the position by her commitment to community service. She is the last Democrat standing on the commission. She indicated a commissioner needs to put good governance above personalities and politics. "If you don't get involved, you can't make change" she noted. As the longest service commissioner, she tries to be a peacemaker and has the ability to bring forth past history. She supports running out of sense of commitment to service and not based on ego. She has been commission chair twice. She shared that sometimes you just have to listen and sometimes take the "tomatoes".

Martha indicated she will likely run for one more term to further work on the county's daycare initiative, development of the new county courthouse and to continue her work on the National County Commissioners' organization.

She was asked about tolling. The County Commission is concerned about equity and affordability in regard to tolling. The surrounding roadways could be overly impacted by additional traffic as people use side roads. Funding from tolling, if approved, would pay for upgrading the Abernathy Bridge and other road projects.

Other Items

County Purchase of Quality Inn: Dennis Ghelfi shared information he heard at the commission meeting regarding the purchase of the Quality Inn by Clackamas County as homeless housing. Commissioner Schrader indicated that the vote to approve the purchase included chair Smith, Commissioner Savas and herself. Commissioners West and Shull were not in agreement, but Commissioner West said he would support the majority decision.

House District Leaders Report

Sue Hein and Jan Lee are the HDLs for District 51. They are actively working on finding candidates for positions for the May election of special district candidates (school boards, water districts, fire districts, etc.). As co-chair of the county communications committee, Jan is working on the campaign portal located on the county website which will have information for perspective candidates for campaigns, job descriptions and service requirements. OTD members may be asked to help find candidates for open positions.

Next Meeting: Interest was shown to have Lori Kuechler, who served as interim legislator for the area, report on her experience as a legislator and to have Sue Hein, a board member of the Sandy Fire District, talk about the district's role with homeless and other local activities at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on March 27th at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Lee, Serving as Temp Secretary