

Minutes
Lincoln County Democrats of Oregon
General Meeting
Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 6:00 PM

28 people attended the meeting, which took place at the Trinity Methodist Church in Toledo. It was called to order by Chair Cherie Harbour at about 6:00 PM.

Martin Desmond (Co -author, Newport Climate Initiative)

Martin's talk was entitled "Abandon All Hope Ye Who Enter Here," an appropriate title for the environmental catastrophe that we are now experiencing. After briefly touching upon unprecedented high temperatures in Phoenix, out of control wild fires on Maui, and the challenging climate changes we are facing here in Oregon, he described some developments in Lincoln County that might be of interest. He recommended David Gomberg's recent editorial in the *Newport News Times* ("Celebrating New Coastal and Ocean Investments in Oregon," August 18, 2023) before turning to various community efforts to create local climate change plans such as he and others had accomplished in Newport. He went on to point out, in reference to the location of our meeting, that Georgia Pacific was the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases in the state. In the discussion that followed Martin's presentation, Steve Shaw described the Juno project which reuses fiber found in garbage.

Beaver Creek Herbicide Spraying

Residents of the Beaver Creek/Seal Rock area are concerned that herbicides sprayed by helicopter near Beaver Creek will eventually flow into the watershed supplying water to their area. The group is asking for local support and has had enthusiastic response to their petition. More information can be found at Stop-The-Spray.com.

Treasurer's Report (Marta West, Treasurer)

The organization's current balance is \$5922.48.

Statements from Elected Officials

Ryan Parker (City Council, Newport)

In light of remarks made about the Beaver Creek spraying (see above), Ryan mentioned that a no-spray bill was passed several years ago but was subsequently ruled unconstitutional by judge Sheryl Bachart. He then pointed out that local utility companies provide significant cost breaks to homeowners interested in home solar installation.

Cynthia Jacobi (City Council, Newport)

Reported that Newport is slowly but surely working on its homeless problem. It is also carrying through on its policy to build up, not out, as can be seen with the advent of new, taller buildings

on Coast Avenue and at Nye Beach. The city is also trying to purchase a few e-vehicles but supply chain issues have delayed their delivery. Parking meters will be introduced at the Bay Front in November. There is a vacancy on the Newport City Council; the application deadline is September 20.

Betty Kamikawa (City Council, Toledo, as reported by Cynthia Jacobi)

There are two vacancies on the Toledo City Council. Thirty new housing units for working families will soon be developed.

Announcements

Monica Kirk (15 Neighborhoods)

The previously passed measure to limit short term rentals in unincorporated areas of the county has been held up in court but a decision is thought to be forthcoming soon. There are 505 short-term rentals in Lincoln County with fewer than 5% of those owned by people living within the County. She believes the county commissioners support the initiative.

Chair Cherie Harbour

Reiterated that our Democratic Party of Lincoln County colleagues are all well intentioned and doing their best; as such they deserve our respect and we owe them our civility. Chair Harbour also encouraged everyone to join a committee.

Archives (Brian Bunnett)

Our archives are in disarray as no policy exists that governs the preservation of documents of historical interest nor the retention of business and financial records that we may be required to keep for a specified number of years. Inquiries will be made with the state office to see if any guidance is forthcoming from that quarter (n. b., the DPO was contacted after the meeting and it provided no assistance). Members were asked to contact Brian if they believe they have any archival materials.

Democratic Party of Oregon Platform Convention (Chair Harbour)

The Convention took place on August 18 – 20 in Monmouth. Lincoln County was well represented with a contingent of seven members. Chair Harbour described the reason for the Convention and how the Legislative Action Items (items to be proposed to legislators) that are generated at the Convention relate to the planks (a previously formulated statement of principles). She related how the convention platform is organized around the break-out sessions - on topics such as the economy, the environment, education – where the Legislative Action Items (LAIs) are generated. Chair Harbour then asked other members of the Lincoln County delegation to share their impressions of the event. These remarks shared certain similarities, viz., the process is messy and imperfect but useful for determining the most important issues of the moment, it is unclear what happens to the LAIs after they are created at the Convention, and attending the event is highly recommended.

Committee Reports

Fundraising (Chair Harbour)

Trivia Night at the Pines in Lincoln City will take place on September 23, at 6:00 PM. Fifteen silent donation items have already been received as well as \$3200 in donations and ticket sales.

Programming (Dianne Eckstein)

Upcoming meetings will be held on September 27 (topic: Climate Change) and October 25 (Censorship and Banned Books); both meetings will take place at the Visual Arts Center in Newport. Volunteers are needed for the Senior Fair at Chinook Winds on October 3.

Coordinated Campaign (Lisa Spence-Bunnett)

The prime campaigning period for the Lincoln City City Council election is from September 18 to October 18 (if there are candidates to support).

Inland Area Committee (Chair Harbour)

Steve Shaw has agreed to serve as chair of the committee.

Adjournment

Chair Harbour adjourned the meeting at 7:20.