

Minutes

Lincoln County Democrats of Oregon

General Meeting

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 5:30 PM

Lincoln City Community Center

The hybrid meeting – in which 24 attendees participated in-person at the Lincoln City Cultural Center and five attendees participated via Zoom– was called to order by Chair Cherie Harbour at 5:30 PM.

Chair Report: Chair Harbour announced that our guest speaker, Alex Llumiquinga, was unable to attend the meeting because of a crash on Highway 101 but will speak at our February meeting. She then shared the results of the November 7 elections:

- Measure 21-219 (renewal of fire, rescue, and EMA services local option tax in Yachats) passed (829 yes, 312 no)
- Measure 21-220 (increasing the county transient lodging tax from 10% to 12%) passed (9038 yes, 4210 no)
- Measure 21-222 (bonds for water reservoir and public safety facility improvements in Toledo) did not pass (269 yes, 363 no)
- Marci Baker was elected to the Lincoln City Council from Ward II with 582 votes
- The result for Lincoln City Council Ward I has not yet been released

Chair Harbour next described recent actions taken by the Executive Committee, these include:

- Dave Haun has resigned as Vice Chair; a search for a replacement is underway
- Judy Bowman, Lisa Spence-Bunnett, and Chair Harbour will take over the VAN-related activities formerly performed by Dave
- Melissa Sumner is stepping back from the PR and Fundraising committees and will now concentrate on her leadership role in the North Area Committee
- Recruitment for a new chair of the Fundraising Committee is underway
- A new PR/Communications Committee has been formed consisting of Lynetta Richardson (PR), Judy Bowman (Website and Social Media), Marta West (Digital Design), and Brian Bunnett (Event Calendaring)

Remarks from Elected Officials

David Gomberg (State Representative, District 10)

Candidates have begun registering for next year's elections and although the governor and senator races will not be held in 2024, all Oregon representatives from the US House will be up for reelection. All members of the state House and half of the members of the state Senate will also be on the ballot. Other prominent state races include Secretary of State (in which Democrats James Manning and Tobias Read have already announced their candidacies), State Treasurer (Democrat Elizabeth Steiner has announced), and Attorney General (current Speaker of the House Dan Rayfield has announced). Representative Gomberg described the latest developments with Measure 113 which sets limits on the number of absences a legislator may incur during a single term. There have been seven Republican walkouts during the last four years and so it comes as no surprise that the party strongly opposes the measure, although on very tenuous grounds. Representative Gomberg is sponsoring a bill to revise the number of members needed to form a quorum from two thirds to a simple majority. He closed by describing the major issues likely to come under discussion at the upcoming January short legislative session, these are housing, Measure 110 (Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act), and infrastructure.

Ryan Parker (Newport City Council)

Submitted a report on greening Newport that is currently under consideration by the city. Among the provisions of the report are: a community solar array at the airport, permeable paving of road surfaces, and "fleet greening" (i.e., incorporating electric vehicles into the city's pool of vehicles). Stated his opposition to timberland real estate investment trusts (REITs) which favor companies rather than the communities in which the forests are located. Oregon, he remarked, should be the leader in sustainable logging and in responsible stewardship of our forests. Councilman Parker announced that he is running for State Senate District 5 and that the environment and an equally shared tax burden will be principal planks of his campaign.

Judy Casper (Lincoln City City Council)

Announced the opening of the Hope Center, a \$2,900,000 project developed in conjunction with Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Centers, that will provide customized plans to help the homeless reintegrate into the community and provide emergency housing as part of these plans. The center contains 70 beds. Councilwoman Casper went on to describe the county's strategic plan to address the homelessness crisis and mentioned that there are as many 2000 homeless residents in the county (4% of the total population).

Treasurer's Report

The draft budget for 2024 was presented; Chair Harbour announced that it will be voted on by our officers, committee chairs, elected officials and precinct committee chairs – 65 people in all. In that budget, \$12,800 has been set aside for election expenses. Our current bank balance is \$9,935.09.

Committee Reports

Coordinated Campaign Committee (Lisa Spence-Bunnett)

There are, at present, nine members of the committee, but, Committee Chair Spence-Bunnett stated that more support will be needed prior to the 2024 elections. She mentioned that committee members are reading *Saving Democracy* by David Pepper which stresses the importance of local elections and how they can influence national races. The committee's priorities are: developing the Neighborhood Leader Program, voter registration, concentrating on areas in the county with low voter turnout, and early preparations for next year's primary and general elections. In January a survey will be distributed to the membership asking them to identify how they might get involved.

Adjournment

Chair Harbour adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.