

Vashon Progressive Alliance Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2018

Attendees: Sheila Brown (host), Diane Emerson (facilitator), Gaye Detzer (minutes), Terry Sullivan, Jennifer Zeisig, Judy White, Steve Rubicz, Chris (Birdz) Van Putten, Roxy Hathaway, Melvin Mackey, Roxanne Thayer, Margaret Mackey, Kevin Jones, Paul Huss, Dominic Jovanovich, Rissa Tutia

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sat. April 21 - Recycling of electronic devices is available at Earth Day happening on Vashon High School Campus.

Zero Waste Vashon's Garden Trial is continuing in 2018.

May 12th - Sheila Brown: There will be a celebration of the life of Dorothy Johnson, a Vashon Community activist who spearheaded the transformation of the Nike Missile site into our Health Care Center with its ongoing support from Granny's Attic. Services to take place at the site of her activism: Sunrise Ridge Center at 1:00 pm. Voice of Vashon will videotape it.

May 12th - Vashon Health and Wellness Fair 10 am -2 pm at Vashon Community Arts Center

April 27th - Jennifer Zeisig will go with her voter registrar group to Green River Community College to Register Voters part of a continuing effort before midterm elections.

Steve Rubicz: Green River is in a flippable Reichert Republican Congressional District.

Chris Van Putten: ACLU is registering voters at Colleges so consider that a campus ACLU might set up a continuing registration weffort.

Also a Voter Registration table at Earth Day on April 21st at Vashon High School.

Roxanne Thayer: The Vashon High School is still registering students to vote. If the High School librarians would like help with this effort, Jennifer Zeisig has volunteers available.

May 4th - First Friday Rally for the Working Class 5-7 at the 4 Corners intersection in town. Working class issues such as living wages and affordable housing need to be addressed! Dominic asks for assistance (206 605 2695). **Rissa volunteered to help with a flyer in Spanish.** See more discussion later in these minutes.

Sat April 21st - Kevin Jones: Initiative 1631 (a Carbon free initiative) can be signed at Earth Day fair. PSE will be there and it is important that we be supportive of their Green efforts to help turn them away from Carbon. The Chautauqua Green Team will march and local activists and Representatives will participate in the fair.

Kevin Jones: the Nobody Is Above the Law effort. If Mueller is fired, we should go to the 4 Way stop. If he is fired before 2pm local time, we show up the same day at 5pm. If he is fired after 2pm local time, we show up at noon the following day. Contact Kevin if you would like to be notified by text or e-mail. kevinjonvash@gmail.com

May 6 at 1:30-3:30 and May 9 at 9:30 – 11:30. Unifying for Democracy sessions at the Presbyterian Church. A non political effort to find common ground to strengthen democracy that will take consensus ideas and action steps to our Representatives. The May 6 session is to brainstorm ideas. The May 19 session is to agree on action steps. Future meetings may have specific topics identified for discussion. **Terry offered to reach out to the Sportsmen's Club.**

April 21 - Diane Emerson: Garden Green Table at Earth Day. Gardening solutions for growing without poisons or pests. How to keep Deer or Codling moths away!

Gun Safety Group: announced they are working to reconstitute gun safety awareness on Vashon. There are currently no public meetings.

April 20-22 & 27-29 Drama Dock Community Theater: "All in the Timing", at O Space. The Saturday 4pm matinee is a "Pay as You Are Able".

ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Roxy Hathaway – Offered to help Tori Stoner, of the Vashon Living Wage effort, with graphic design. Diane will send Roxy Tory's contact details, which can also be found on our website.

Terry Sullivan - invited Zero Waste to this meeting but they were unable to attend. **Terry will invite other progressive groups to our next meeting.**

Amy Morrison (not present), was to work on setting up a Panel Forum to educate Vashon on Initiative 1600 Healthcare for All.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Healthcare for All. Sheila pointed out there is confusion about reconciling existing legislative efforts for universal health care with the citizens initiative which would become law for 2 years, if enough signatures are gathered, which is why a community forum is needed. Roxanne made the point that it really need not be an either/or situation because after 2 years the legislature could put together the best of both, and if enough signatures were gathered, it would move universal health care forward, helping the Legislature understand the need. Efforts to pass comprehensive health care for the State of Washington have long been stalled in the Legislature. Roxanne felt that this people's initiative just might push the Legislature to move, with a show of strong support. If anyone is interested in gathering signatures, they can contact Roxanne at roxanne070@outlook.com

Eileen Cody, our Representative, is not supporting healthcare initiatives, so it is important to have a lot of signatures. The deadline for signatures is July. **Terry will contact Amy Morrison about the community panel discussion. Sheila will help Amy with set up.**

2. May 4th Rally for the Working Class: Rissa will help Dom organize. The event will be held on First Friday to spotlight the distinction between the owning and the working class: issues such as living wage, discrimination, access to food and housing. Include Hispanic community (it was suggested to contact Susan Murphy). **Rissa to contact DOVE and Emma Amiad.** Dom is looking for people who can advocate for these various causes to be at the event. The overall purpose is to raise consciousness of these issues, and help people feel empowered.

We discussed ideas to help with the event:

Signage suggestions for the rally: Homelessness Exists, I can't pay my rent, Living Wage Now, All our Community Deserves Housing, Community Owned Infrastructure, How Many Are Living Month to Month, Labor Creates All Wealth...

Pick one goal for May 4th - work on Beachcomber coverage. Have a petition in the form of a letter to our Congressman and to Dow Constantine pinpointing main problems on Vashon that people could sign at the rally.

ENDORSEMENTS

1. Citizens Impeachment Coalition support of HB 621 passed: 15-1
2. Remove the Washington State Director of the Licences Pat Kolar who cooperated with ICE. Call on Governor Inslee to do so. Unanimous vote.
3. Whole Washington's I 600 Using the provision for emergency endorsements due to time constraints, we voted on this endorsement without notifying the rest of our group. The vote passed unanimously. Here is the wording:

“Vashon Progressive Alliance endorses Whole Washington’s I-1600 Universal Healthcare for Washington State. This measure would require establishment of a comprehensive state program to pay for healthcare for all Washington residents by November 2019, funded by premiums and taxes on employers, individual income, and capital gains.”

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 15, 6:00 pm, Sheila and Brian Brown’s House, 19834 Vashon Highway.