

Minutes from Vashon Progressive Alliance
May 15, 2018

Attendees: Sheila Brown (host), Rissa Tutia (minutes) Diane Emerson (facilitator), Bunny Hatcher, Roxy Hathaway, Steve Rubicz, Gaye Detzer, C. Birdz Van Putten, Kevin Jones, Judy White, Debby Jackson, Terry Sullivan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SURJ meeting this Sunday 5/20 from 3-5 pm at the Land Trust building. The theme is Bail, Jail & Beyond. Two groups will be presenting: 1) Numbers to Names, a Tacoma re-entry organization and 2) Northwest Community Bail Fund, who provides cash bail to individuals experiencing poverty.

Tenants rights meeting tomorrow 5/16 at 6:30 pm at the Library.

Unifying for Democracy will meet Saturday 5/19 from 9:30-11:30 am at the Presbyterian Church.

Carbon Free Team meeting Thursday from 4-6 pm at Vashon Co-Housing. This meeting will discuss a summary of meetings with legislative representatives.

Nobody is Above the Law at <https://front.moveon.org/>. Sign on to get involved.

There is now a Spring Hecht gun safety group. Details will be announced soon.

Indivisible Vashon is supporting voter registration. Contact Jen or Susan Murphy for more info. This includes deep listening canvassing. There are fundraising efforts for local districts (8th & 34th). The ferry lines are a great place to register voters.

Washington Fair Trade Candidate Forum will occur Monday 5/21 from 7-8:30 pm at Bellevue Community College.

ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Rissa Tutia helped with the flyer for the Rally for the Working class, but did not do the Spanish-language translation. She met with Dom to help organize the rally and Emma Amiad for guidance, and she did not contact DOVE since it became apparent that it was out of the scope of the rally to include them.

Terry Sullivan reached out to the Sportsmen's Club, but had no response. He also reached out to groups to come speak at a VPA meeting, but had no response. He did not yet contact Amy Morrison. **Sheila Brown will contact Amy.**

Roxy Hathaway reached out to Tori Stoner, but had no response.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PCO Elections. PCO stands for Precinct Committee Officer. They are tasked with registering voters, compelling them to vote, and vote themselves on certain issues. Some officers are not accessible, have moved out of the precinct, or in other ways not involved with their duties. There are a few that are more active. To be a PCO, call Bunny. You can file online until this Friday at 4 pm. You can file at King County Democrats, <https://www.kcdems.org/>. Incumbents have to refile. Otherwise, officers can be appointed. However, they have less power than an elected officer. For example, they can't vote on certain items. Monthly officer meetings are open to all.

2. Unifying for Democracy. There were 60 people in attendance. Each table identified important issues, and then turned them into questions. Some issues included "Taking Money Out of Politics" and "Education & Civics". Solutions were introduced, and they will be brought to the next meeting where there will be an audience with three legislative representatives. The main purpose of this meeting was to inspire more aware and motivated voters. Focusing on issues brought people together, something that was not possible while focusing on candidates.

3. Revisiting the VPA Mission. How are we doing? It is a good time to reassess our focus and ask, "Are we being effective?" There are a lot of groups focusing on definite goals and action. However, VPA meetings help people to stay informed and steers interest in what to get involved with. At the same time, does info lead to action? Many in attendance agreed that it did. The VPA website provides a valuable resource as a community hub. Some VPA members have learned about other groups at a VPA meeting and have gotten involved with those groups. The VPA website receives a good amount of traffic, particularly to the calendar, the home page, and the Find Your Group pages. There was agreement that VPA could increase the activist focus, but no specific action items were identified at this time.

4. Endorsements. Actions to take. This could be a two-step process. 1) Identifying what the issue is and why that person/group wants an endorsement from VPA. 2) The person/group asking for the endorsement thinks of the next step and how they want to utilize the endorsement. This may function to further encourage their activism. VPA could endorse more candidates, as these endorsements can give some power when brought to voters.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 19, 6:00 pm, Sheila and Brian Brown's House, 19834 Vashon Highway.