

Vashon Progressive Alliance Meeting Notes – 11/20/2018

Attendees: Diane Emerson (facilitator), Jennifer Zeisig, Suzanne Greenberg, Noah Roselander, Jeff Schnelz, Kevin Jones (minutes), Christopher Van Putten, Melvin Mackey, Debby Jackson, Dierdre Petree, Judy White, JoAnn Herbert, Art Chippendale.

Announcements:

Sunday, Nov 25: Phone bank and (maybe) texting for Democratic candidate for Mississippi US Senator Mike Espy – Noon to 3PM – House on the Bluff

Friday, Nov 30: Blue Wave celebration potluck – 6:30 – 10PM – Vashon Co-Housing

Wednesday, Dec 12: Immigrant / Refugee Work Group – Noon to 2PM –

Monday, Dec 10: Last day to comment on policy change to redefine the conditions under which Immigrants can receive Green Cards, which would prohibit Green Card status to immigrants who have accepted any safety net services

Old Business – from October meeting:

Melvin Mackey did inform the I-1631 team of the Vashon Progressive Alliance endorsement.

The Vashon Progressive Voters guide was published in The Beachcomber and was posted on Facebook and the VPA website. The hat was passed to collect additional funds to pay for the larger Beachcomber ad.

I-1000 was added to the November meeting agenda

End of year party – was added to the November meeting agenda

New Business:

1. Election Recap:

Candidates mentioned:

Kim Schrier – Washington's 8th Congressional District

Krysten Sinema – Arizona Senate

Washington Seats that flipped from Republican to Democrat – Mona Das, Claire Wilson, Debra Entenman, Mari Leavitt, Jared Mead, Lisa Callan, Bill Ramos, Sharon Shewmake, Dave Paul and, hopefully, Justin Boneau and Emily Randall (too close to call)

2. I-1000 Endorsement:

Jennifer Zeisig read the endorsement statement, which would repeal I-200 and expand state affirmative action and anti-discrimination laws.

Discussion:

What is the relationship between I-200 and I-1000? I-200 was a Tim Eyman initiative passed in 1998. It banned Affirmative Action in public employment, education, and contracting. I-1000 would reinstate Affirmative Action and expand anti-discrimination laws in WA State without the use of quotas or preferential treatment for minorities, women, people with disabilities, and all honorably discharged veterans.

Endorsement process:

How many people will be voting on the endorsement: 12, so we have a quorum.

Vote results: For I-1000 endorsement: 12. Oppose I-1000 endorsement: 0.

Actions:

Diane Emerson to add our I-1000 endorsement to the Vashon Progressive Alliance website.

Jennifer Zeisig to contact The Beachcomber for inclusion of our endorsement.

Jennifer Zeisig to submit our endorsement statement to The Loop.

3. Future of Vashon Progressive Alliance:

Diane opened the discussion:

Diane plans to focus her future activism on removal of toxic pesticide use on Vashon Island and Puget Sound. As a consequence, she will be unable to continue facilitating the Vashon Progressive Alliance monthly meetings.

If the Vashon Progressive Alliance meetings are to continue, we need people to:

Send MailChimp meeting announcements at least twice per month: once before and once after the monthly meetings

Arrange the facility for the meetings

Facilitate the meetings

Publish meeting notes

Maintain and update the Vashon Progressive Alliance website and mailing list

Would anyone like to take over the meeting?

Discussion:

Art Chippendale: Recommend this be a rotating responsibility.

JoAnn: Who is willing to take a turn hosting the meeting? Answer: Art Chippendale was the only person present willing to take a turn hosting.

Who would manage the website? Answer: Diane would continue to manage the website, and train someone to run the website if there is a volunteer.

Debby Jackson: This group could meet informally, without minutes, just sharing information.

Diane: Who is willing to host informal Vashon Progressive Alliance meetings? Answer: no response.

Suzanne Greenberg: This group could align / merge with Indivisible Vashon, which is in the process of creating periodic meetings. Some of the services provided by the Vashon Progressive Alliance could be proposed as Indivisible Vashon activities.

Noah Roselander: Indivisible Vashon does have a mission statement and a clear objective to resist the worst policies of the Trump agenda.

Art Chippendale: Interest in focusing on local Vashon issues (ferries) and regional issues. One vision: Bring all progressive groups together to collaborate and learn what each group is doing.

Suzanne and Noah: We believe there should be a Vashon Progressive Alliance, which Vashon activist groups can join and come together at quarterly or twice-yearly meetings to collaborate.

Art Chippendale: How can the local Vashon Democrats be incorporated into the plans for the future?

Key conclusions:

The Vashon Progressive Alliance will not continue meeting monthly, but it is important to keep the name alive, even if we don't have monthly meetings.

Indivisible Vashon has emerged as an activist group that is open to participants and is open to individuals who want to bring a new activist focus to life. Indivisible Vashon has a Leadership team, and groups focusing on : 1. Immigration/refugees 2. Write to Resist 3. Legislative Action and 4. Building a Progressive Majority. Indivisible Vashon also has a website, and has taken over the progressive calendar. It also has a nationwide organization providing significant guidance, the latest of which is Indivisible on Offense, which provides guidance on how to communicate now that there is a Democratic majority in Congress.

The Vashon Progressive Alliance should focus on bringing Vashon-based progressive groups together for quarterly or twice yearly meetings.

Action: Diane to invite Vashon Progressive Alliance members to participate with Indivisible Vashon, continue to update the website, facilitate the Facebook page, and contact the Beachcomber, Loop, Vashon Hub, and progressive calendar to cancel regular meeting notices. Diane to contact Sheila Brown and turn over the \$77 raised from passing the hat at the November meeting and the \$95 from previous donations, all to go toward paying for the Progressive Voter's Guide in the Beachcomber.

Action: Kevin to add to the Indivisible Vashon leadership meeting agenda - does Indivisible Vashon want to participate in monthly, quarterly, or twice-yearly meetings of Vashon progressive groups?

Action: Add to the minutes - let Indivisible Vashon leadership team know if you would like to participate in discussions about how to bring these activist groups together. Contact Kevin Jones (kevinjonvash@gmail.com), Suzanne Greenberg (suzannegreenberg@gmail.com) or Noah Roselander (noah.roselander@gmail.com).

4. End of year party:

Action: Sheila to host a party on the 3rd Tuesday of January.

Action: Diane to discuss this with Sheila.

Kevin

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