

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)
February 9, 2010, 6:24 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rick Saling, Executive Vice President. Also present were Brian Roberts, Les French, Rennie Sawade, Anna Bloomquist, Derek Stanford, and Bill Montgomery.

Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 1/12/10 were read, and there were 3 amendments: Rennie Sawade is Chair of the Communications Committee; Organizer Sreenan's first name is Malachy, not Malcolm; and the Women's Resource Conference is at AT&T, not CWA. The minutes were then approved as amended.

President's Report (Les French)

Les updated us on the upcoming certification election in the newly organized AT&T Network Operations Center (NOC). Some 133 ballots are due to go out to employees on Feb. 19, and we need a simple majority to avoid decertification. Meanwhile we have taken the first group of stewards and made them the election committee for the NOC.

Regarding Pierce County Health Care negotiations, these are done and we must now get a memorandum signed off by CWA and Pierce County. Our CBU, Pierce County Emergency Management, has decided to go to the Teamsters Welfare Trust for its health insurance coverage. This was the lowest-cost option.

The State Labor Council Legislative Conference will be an all-day event next Thursday. Rennie, Les, and Ian Jacobson will attend, along with Suzie McAllister of District 7. This will be a conference on how best to represent labor's interests to state government. There will be face-to-face interaction with state legislators.

Finance Committee Report (Les French for Mitchell McMurry, Treasurer)

Les presented the balance sheet and profit-and-loss statement through 1/31/10. Our current assets are \$107,271, which Les described as "low," but he said we are still in good shape. This is expected to rise to about \$120,000 when the reimbursement for our organizer's salary comes in. Dues income is over budget, but this should even out by the end of the fiscal year. We may need to save about \$15,000, which we can do by cutting back on attendance at conferences and conventions.

Les asked that the finance report be approved. Anna so moved, and Rennie seconded.

- **Action:** The motion passed. The Finance Committee report is approved.

Secretary's Report (Brian Roberts)

Brian reported back on the results of the bylaw change election at the last general membership meeting. The membership adopted our proposed change to make the new committees, Women's and Equity, permanent but with the proviso that the description of the Equity chair's duties be changed as soon as possible to more accurately reflect the goals of that committee. Brian read the proposed change and moved that it be adopted. Derek seconded.

- **Action:** The motion passed. The revised language describing the Equity chair's responsibilities will be presented at the next general membership meeting as a bylaw change to be voted on.

Membership Committee Report (Derek Stanford, Chair)

The report showed no further decline in membership. Derek said he has finished the draft of the membership brochure for review by the PC, and will now start organizing the local's annual picnic. Les said there were 68 people at last year's picnic and he expected about the same or more. He wondered whether we should cater it or have a potluck. Brian wondered if we could have a band. Rennie asked about kids' activities. Les said we should get a committee together to look at various candidate locations. Mariner Park was suggested; Derek thought we should look for a site in Bothell. Anna volunteered to be on the committee and said that Rose Hurban would also be interested in participating.

Communications Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)

The new web site is up and running. Rennie said a new feature is social network sharing of articles with Facebook, Twitter, etc. At the request of Mitchell McMurry, Rennie has redone the contacts page, and he has also added much more structure, i.e., arranging the information in tiers, for the PC page. He has posted the bylaws.

Rennie said he's writing a letter to Congressman Jim McDermott in support of free trade, to coincide with the Washington Free Trade Coalition's letter campaign to support McDermott. He proposes to make it public on the web site. Les said it should first be run by Ian.

Technology Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)

Rennie said he has created e-mail addresses for the new stewards.

Legislative Committee Report (Les French for Ian Jacobson, Chair)

Les reported that Ian will be attending the State Labor Council Legislative Conference. Tonight he is at a lobbying training seminar being held by the King County Labor Council.

Education Committee Report (Les French for vacant chair)

Les reported that Ian Jacobson has resigned as chair of this committee. We will be looking for a replacement.

Women's Committee Report (Les French for Rose Hurban, Chair)

Les said we have not yet heard from AT&T about the Women's Resource Conference proposed to be held on April 22 or 23.

AT&T CBU Vice President's Report (Bill Montgomery)

Bill proposed that, if we do cut back on convention attendance, we find out what leadership training is available and see if we can have it presented locally; for example, new developments in labor law. Les

replied that there are often good, pertinent Power Point presentations on line that we can have sent to us. Rick opined that this was a good subject to refer to the Education Committee when it is restaffed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary