

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)
November 17, 2009, 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, Derek Stanford, Jim Burdick, Ian Jacobson, Anna Bloomquist, and Bill Montgomery.

Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 10/13/09 were read and approved.

President's Report (Les French)

Les reported that the bulk of enrollment of the AT&T Network Operations Center (NOC) employees will be completed this week, although we may not realize any revenue from their dues until December.

Regarding the AT&T Safety Committee, the company now realizes its legal requirement to have full employee representation on that committee. Appointments should be in place by the end of the year, and the first meeting will be in January. The committee must address the issues of the H1N1 virus and (for the NOC) RF radiation.

Regarding support for the Foundation for Working Families, the coffee purchase idea as a way to raise funds, which was floated at the last meeting, did not get a very good response. Les will look at other options.

Les attended the AT&T Mobility Leadership Conference. The Federal Mediation/Conciliation Services put on a very useful presentation on generational differences in organizing. Les got a lot of materials and is thinking about putting on a weekend training session in early 2010. Early in December he will train the stewards for the NOC.

WashTech's next general membership meeting will not be a regular meeting but will be a holiday open house, Dec. 13 at 2 to 6 PM.

- **Action:** Anna, Jim, and Rose Hurban volunteered to plan the open house.

Finance Committee Report (Rick Saling for Mitchell McMurry, Treasurer)

Rick passed out the monthly balance sheet and updated profit-and-loss statement as of Oct. 31, 2009. Year-to-date income is short of budgeted by about \$13,000 due to timing differences of dues receipts. Expenses, however, were some \$11,000 under budget. Anna moved, and Jim seconded, that the report be approved.

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

The Committee intends to review the budget to see whether the recession-caused decline in income will require revisions. Les gave his opinion that he wouldn't do this review until January because we need first to have a couple of months' experience with the NOC under our belt. We can cut some categories, he

said, but he wants to continue spending on leadership development items like conferences and conventions.

Legislative Committee Report (Ian Jacobson, Member)

Ian said that with Dow Constantine's election as King County Executive, his spot as a Seattle City Council member is opened. We would like to support someone friendly to labor. Zack Hudgens, a State Representative and WashTech member, is a possibility. We may want to set up a vetting process so we don't end up supporting a schmuck for the position. Les said yes, we must be careful whom we hop into bed with.

Ian said he had attended a public meeting with new Seattle mayor Mike McGinn tonight and put questions to him. He seemed very receptive to issues labor is concerned about.

Membership Committee Report (Derek Stanford, Chair)

The report showed a dropoff of about another 25 at-large members. Les noted that at-large people tend to drop off anytime there's a change in collection of payments, and there were two such changes in the past 6 months.

Les floated the idea of offering memberships in WashTech nationwide (as our charter allows us) to legislators, who could then present themselves to their constituents as card-carrying union members. Ian suggested the effect might be magnified by trickling down through party leadership.

Les also suggested we try to take advantage of the Training Adjustment Act (TAA) to make funds available to IT workers who have lost jobs because of trade issues. The funds would be available up to 2 years after the employee is laid off.

Women's Ad Hoc Task Force Report (Anna Bloomquist for Chair Rose Hurban)

Anna said we still need to find storage areas for our women's project, "Dress for Success."

Old Business

Dan Gillespie has accepted his appointment as WashTech representative on the Computer Science Advisory Committee at Renton Technical College.

- **Action:** Brian will send the appointment letter to RTC.

Brian asked if one of the photos taken at the recent Good Guy Awards ceremony could be posted on our web site. Les said this was a good idea.

New Business

Brian proposed that a change to the bylaws turning the new ad hoc task forces into standing committees be given to the general membership for ratification.

- **Action:** Brian was given the go-ahead to draft the new language for the next GM meeting.

Brian proposed that the procedure in WashTech's OPM limiting the reimbursement for members' lost wages to \$20 an hour be revised in light of the fact that some of our new members in the NOC are paid more than \$20 per hour. Jim moved that we retain the \$20 limit for at-large members but pay bargaining unit members at whatever rate the company pays them. Brian seconded.

- **Action:** The motion passed. Brian will revise the OPM accordingly.

Good and Welfare of the Body

Derek announced that he is getting married on November 28th.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary