

MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)
December 8, 2009, 6:31 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, Mitchell McMurry, Anna Bloomquist, Rennie Sawade, and Bill Montgomery.

Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of 11/17/09 were read and approved.

President's Report (Les French)

Les reported that, regarding organizing, we have issues to work out with AT&T about the organizing of the AT&T Network Operations Center (NOC) employees. We haven't had the green light yet to organize T-Mobile, so for now Malachy Sreenan is devoting his efforts to assisting with AT&T issues. We're dividing the turf with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in regard to Comcast: they have their sights set on organizing the cable division. We don't yet have the green light to move ahead on Comcast either.

Les said he feels we are stretched too thin to plan a Christmas party. Bill moved, and Anna seconded, that we plan something concurrent with the General Membership meeting in January. Then Bill amended his motion to suggest we look into meeting at the YMCA in Bothell.

- **Action:** The motion was not voted on, but the consensus was that we hold the GM meeting Jan. 20 and look into having an open house on Sunday, Jan. 24.

Finance Committee Report (Mitchell McMurry, Treasurer)

Mitchell passed out the monthly balance sheet as of Nov. 30, 2009. Year-to-date income is still short of budgeted because all dues receipts are not in yet from the NOC. Rick moved, and Derek seconded, that the report be approved.

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

Membership Committee Report (Derek Stanford, Chair)

Derek reported a resolution passed at the last meeting of the Martin Luther King County Labor Council (MLKLC) to encourage union people to turn out for the health care rally, 2:00 PM Dec. 12 at Occidental Park.

Derek said he would help organize the open house for the general membership in January.

Communications Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Member and Acting Chair)

Rennie said he got 1 or 2 e-mails from people who want WashTech's help in forming local unions; he forwarded them to Les. Les said Malachy got the information.

Rennie put a blog post on our site about Microsoft's charging vendors to work onsite. They reclassified him as a lab vendor and are now charging him \$450 a month to use a desk there. Eventually they will move him into a lab, which will make his work more difficult.

Technology Committee Report (Rennie Sawade, Chair)

Rennie asked if anyone had been getting spam on their WashTech e-mail account. Bill and Brian both said they did; Brian said that's all he gets on that account. Rennie suggested that a forwarding account might be set up for Brian. He said we have a problem with overaggressive filtering by Comcast, which is Brian's internet service provider.

Anna said she was told she must use Internet Explorer for her WashTech account. She has had problems signing in.

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

Bill's report was specific to AT&T, so he said he would wait until adjournment and present it to the AT&T attendees.

AT&T CBU Vice President's Report (Jim Burdick)

Jim commented that the state's unemployment process is inferior: AT&T is getting additional time to respond to his appeal. Les replied that AT&T doesn't really have additional time because the delay is in the Washington State Employment Security (WSES) department. When they catch up with their work and notify AT&T, AT&T will then have only 30 days to respond to the appeal.

AT&T CBU Vice President's Report (Anna Bloomquist)

Anna also said she would wait until adjournment and present her report to the AT&T attendees. She did say, however, that AT&T is making a big push on attendance, threatening to close down the call center if the average days absent did not get down to 3.5 days per year. They say the current average is 15.1, but this makes no sense because you get fired if you have more than 12. Other AT&T call centers across the country are averaging 10 or 11.

Anna said there appears to be a hiring freeze at Bothell, which is not happening at the other centers. Bill commented that there have been no new hires at Bothell 1 and 2 in nearly 2 years.

Old Business

The PC's resolution to make the 2 new task forces into standing committees will be on the agenda for voting at the GM meeting.

New Business

Anna moved that the PC minutes be distributed to the members via e-mail 1 week in advance, then only 12 paper copy be used at the meeting. This would save meeting time. Bill seconded.

- **Action:** The motion passed. The minutes will go out electronically to all the PC members.

Good and Welfare of the Body

Mitchell expressed his appreciation for WashTech's donation to the St. Vincent's Home in honor of his mother.

Rick told about his visit to Ellis Island, where he unexpectedly found a large display on the history of the labor movement in the U.S. The connection makes sense, however, because the immigrants who came through Ellis Island were the core of the U.S. labor movement in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, January 12, 2010, at Suite 200, 2900 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, WA, unless otherwise notified.

Brian Roberts, Secretary