

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Sixth Ward Democratic Organization**  
Southside Wellness Center – Saint Louis, MO  
General Membership Meeting – November 20, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Alison Gee (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the October 16, 2008 meeting approved. Moved/Seconded: Brandon Davis/John Maxwell.

**Treasurers Report:**

In Steve Zeiger's absence, Alison Gee reported a balance on 11.06.08 of \$5,647.87 after expenditures of \$975 for poll workers. There were no deposits since the last meeting. Moved/Seconded: Ollie Stewart/John Maxwell.

**Candidate for Comptroller**

Darlene Green, current St. Louis City Comptroller and sole candidate for the office at this time, provided information on her background and accomplishments in office.

As comptroller, Ms. Green is responsible for:

- Accounting
- Paying bills
- Payroll
- Internal audits
- Financial reporting

This year, she has saved \$80 million in refinancing, conducted an internal audit that lead to greater efficiencies, secured a \$12 million grant from the Department of Health for the southside, HIV/AIDS daycare, school lunches, and to feed the hungry. She also secured \$1.9 million from the Justice Department.

She also is the third 'leg' of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment with the Mayor and President of the Board of Aldermen. Together, they approve the budget. She believes her job is to protect the interests of taxpayers. Recently, she fought for a better deal with BJC over the Forest Park land they wanted to acquire. With her support, BJ increased its payment from \$1.6 to \$2 million. They also agreed to replace the playground in a different location in the park.

She sees her role as "protecting Main Street". She is proud to have financially supported President-elect Obama when he first ran for US Senate.

Her goal is to balance her budget while avoiding layoffs. She will accomplish that by eliminating non-essential travel, decreasing the use of fuel, cutting non-essentials by line-item, increasing green technology, and finding other cost-cutting measures. She runs a summer institute for youth who she hires and trains in understanding finances. She has instituted a tree-trimming program in conjunction with Ameren UE, the Botanical Gardens, and SLCC. She is proud of the city's upgraded credit rating of A+ this year. The City has no variable rate debt; all debt is fixed rate. In addition, there is a reserve fund that can be used to protect jobs.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Brandi Davis provided the report on behalf of the committee that included Mary Sue Rosenthal and Teresa Hebron.

President: Alison Gee  
Vice President: Brandon Davis  
Recording Secretary: Ollie Stewart  
Corresponding Secretary: Christine Ingrassia  
Treasurer: Jen Sieve

Nobody was nominated from the floor. Elections will be conducted at the January 15, 2009 meeting.

### **Elected Officials Reports**

Committeeman John Maxwell celebrated the 88% vote in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward for Obama. The Ward had the highest number of votes for Obama. On behalf of the organization, he thanked members for all the doors knocked on election day, the polls worked, and the calls made. He also noted that Bev Buchheit is doing well after her illness and welcomes calls and visits.

Senator-elect Robin Wright Jones wished everyone a Happy Holidays. She thanked everyone for their work on the general election. She noted that everyone is invited to the swearing-in of elected officials in Jefferson City on January 7 at noon, and the Inauguration on January 12. She told members that her district office is located at 3303 Olive Boulevard (phone: 533.8800) and that her aide in St. Louis is Davitta Hansen. She will be in Room 425 in the Capitol and plans on pre-filing bills on education and transportation.

### **New Business**

Ollie Stewart mentioned that she is taking a bus full of seniors to DC for the Obama Inauguration.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm