

MEETING MINUTES
Sixth Ward Democratic Organization
Southside Wellness Center – Saint Louis, MO
General Membership Meeting – July 16, 2009 at 7:00 pm

Alison Gee (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:07pm. She announced that Christine Ingrassia, Recording Secretary, would not be attending as she had just given birth to their new son Evan Michael Ingrassia.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the March 19, 2009 meeting M/S/A David Lee/John Maxwell.

Treasurers Report:

Mary Sue Rosenthal, a written report. Income for the period 3.20.09 through 7.16.09 was \$2,170; expenditures were \$3,935.90; the cash-on-hand balance was \$3,513.55. Information is also available at the MEC website; all PAC reports have been filed. Treasurers report M/S/A Bev Buchheit/Ira VonHombracht.

Taste of the Sixth Ward

Alison asked for volunteers to help plan the event, scheduled for Thursday September 17. John Maxwell offered his house for the event and will be the point person. Theresa Hebron and Mary Kay Christian volunteered in advance of the meeting and Alison noted that two new members, Melissa Lyles and Derric Smith, had indicated at the last meeting that they would help. Ira VonHombracht, David Lee, Ollie Stewart, Damon Jones volunteered at the meeting. Mary Sue Rosenthal offered that she had materials for the event and some beer and wine from a previous Sixth Ward event. Alison suggested that, once she is settled, Christine Ingrassia could share information from last year about contributors to the event.

Health Reform:

Anna Jinkerson, Congressional Outreach Coordinator for Congressman Carnahan presented facts about the state of healthcare and the uninsured in the US, followed by a synopsis of the House 'Quality Affordable Health Care Act' that is being marked up in three House committees. The President has asked that a health reform bill be sent to him before August recess. Anna noted the bill has six key provisions:

- Coverage and choice
- Affordability
- Shared responsibility
- Controlling costs
- Prevention and wellness
- Workforce investments

Members raised several questions including how mandating insurance will be enforced, whether employed individuals can opt for the public plan option, how Medicare and Medicaid will be impacted, and how the Missouri delegation is lining up behind the bills (including the Senate version). There was a healthy discussion of the move away from employer-based health insurance as a positive in helping the country return to being competitive in manufactured goods, that was countered with some suggestions that 'cap and trade' that was recently passed in the Energy bill could have a negative effect on employment.

Anna suggested the Missouri Budget Project website as a place for further information on the bills and proposals: www.mobudget.org as well as the House Education & Labor Committee itself: <http://edlabor.house.gov/blog/2009/07/americas-affordable-health-choices-act.shtml>

Elected Officials Reports

John Maxwell reported that the Water Tower will start work rebuilding the pond thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the city secured by Pres of the Board Reed, plus \$60,000 raised by the Water Tower Foundation. He also reported that the Central Committee appointed Chink Washington to replace Antonio French as committeeman since French can no longer serve.

Bev Buchheit thanked Ollie Stewart for the Education Award she was given at the Seniors event in Forest Park in the early summer.

New Business

Ollie Stewart noted the help she has received from Project Hope students, as has Food Outreach and other community organizations.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm, M/S/A David Lee/Ollie Stewart