



Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

October 17, 2016

President Jeter called the meeting to order at 3:15p

Roll Call

Minutes

Moved (Richardson/Greenhill) to accept as distributed. Greenhill should be excused due to being at the IBEW Convention. Approved unanimously.

Correspondence

Moved (Greenhill/Clay) and approved as distributed. Only action item was the \$600 approved by the Executive Committee for a full-page ad in the upcoming DC Jobs with Justice "I'll Be There" awards.

Financial Report

Treasurer Eric Bunn distributed both accrual and cash basis reports. Q&A followed, focused on accounting properly for the write-off of \$40,000 in uncollectible per capita. After further discussion, Bunn moved that the report be tabled until next month so that it can be corrected (Bunn/Fields); approved.

Growth Committee Update

Executive Director Carlos Jimenez provided update on progress by the Committee; continuing exploring/thinking about how Council can ID strategies to bolster local organizing efforts. more to come at 4p presentation.

Legislative Committee Update

David Dzidzienyo reported: working with Megan Fitzgerald to put together Legislative Tracker tool to keep affiliates aware of bills they should be aware of. Distributed draft and cited several examples. Discussion ensued, with a general consensus that this is a useful and timely tool. President Jeter suggested a monthly email with highlights on upcoming hearings etc.

Department Reports

COPE

David Dzidzienyo reported on COPE activities since last month, including Grasso interview, resulting in recommendation the Council endorse Grasso. Discussion/debate ensued. NNU in particular is opposed, because of his lack of support for their bill on workplace violence. Moved/seconded (Fields/Courtien) to accept endorsement of Grasso; approved with one nay (Falwell).

Andrew Washington (AFSCME Council 20) reported on DC Statehood issue; said he thinks the push for a DC Constitution is "putting the cart before the horse" and includes some issues that are of concern. Problem is that the upcoming vote on statehood includes approval of constitution. Letter to go to Mayor, Council Chair and Attorney General expressing our concerns. Approved.

New Business

"A Power Analysis for Greater Washington and New Organizing Strategies"

Presenters: Steven Lerner, Saqib Bhatti and Kevin Connor.

There's lots of good stuff going on around the country, here's some examples.

Kevin Connor, Public Accountability Initiative: runs LittleSis.org website. Questions for a power structure analysis: who really has power in a region? Generally the ones with the money. Who are the real decision makers; follow the food chain.

Steven Lerner: described coordinated campaign in Minneapolis in which allies came together to target the same employer through various routes.

Saqib Bhatti: Chicago Teachers Union. Go high enough on the food chain on any of these issues and you'll almost always find bankers. Scams like toxic swaps and tifs, which are really just ways to rip-off workers and taxpayers. So often employers say they're broke and that's often true, but it's a question of who decided to spend money where, or "broke on purpose." Follow the money: companies getting benefits are often the ones with members serving on boards, like school boards, etc. Kevin Connor then presented local example of some of these interconnections, affecting unions as diverse as IATSE at the Kennedy Center and WTU through the same billionaire at the center of the financial web. hedgeclippers.org is a good resource.

Question: is it of interest to the Metro Council to map out these power maps and what pressures we can apply. Discussion about how to proceed, with so many issues/interests involved in a place as big/complex as DC. Discussion ensued. Point was made that by doing the basic re-

Attendance

Present: Briscoe, Bunn, Carson, Clay, Collins, Contreras, Courtien, Davis, Falwell, Fields, Flood, Goldman, Greenhill, Griffin, Jeter, Reed, Richardson, Washington

Excused: Havard, Ratliff, Renne

Absent: Bast

Also attending: Dyana Forster, UFCW 400

Staff: Dzidzienyo, Fitzgerald, Garlock, Jimenez, McKirchy



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search to map the local power structure a campaign would be organic instead of one-off short-term opportunistic efforts.

Carlos Jimenez: recommendation is that the Growth Committee continue this discussion and come back with a recommendation. Jackie Jeter said that it was clear that there's interest by the Board in finding out more and then figuring out how to fund it. Jaime agreed and said that the discussion is not only overdue but urgent.

Lerner: some short-term ideas: some of this work is already being done locally; conference being planned; draft legislation in process; list of private equity/hedgefund folk in DC/MD/VA. More discussion ensued.

Union Cities

Coordinator Chris Garlock reported:

- October 13 Trump Hotel demo: thanked everyone for their support and turning out. Great first step in what's likely to be a longer and broader campaign so stay tuned for updates.
- Giant/Safeway negotiations: ongoing; contracts expire on October 31.
- Kennedy Center negotiations: IATSE 22 negotiations ongoing.
- WMATA negotiations: Jackie Jeter reported that things are not going well; they'll be organizing various actions and asking for support so stay tuned.
- LaborFest 2017: initial meeting held last week and plans already underway.

Community Services Agency

Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy reported:

- \$17,000 raised at recent CSA Golf Tourney; thanks to everyone for support
- United Way, CFC, DC One campaigns ongoing; opportunity for rank-and-file union members to give. were at pepco today, thanks for that invitation; thanks to everyone who's invited us in and we're still available, just let me know!
- Bowling Tourney coming up January 29; sign-up now
- Holiday Basket program underway now; please support

Executive Director Report

Extensive written report submitted (see attached)

Reports

Carl Goldman, AFSCME Council 26: 658 won its first contract and it's been ratified

Herb Harris: CSX derailment in May; concern about legislation about issue of safety. request letter of support from Metro Washington Council to DC City Council to move the legislation.

Jackie Jeter, ATU 689: AFL-CIO Leadership Conference; \$12,000 cost that the AFL-CIO has agreed to cover half the cost. Weeklong training three times over a year. National Labor Leadership Institute to support higher-level local leaders; high-level training and support and coaching. Both Jackie and Eric have been invited; first one is coming up at the end of November. Moved/seconded that the Metro Washington Council cover \$12k (\$6k per person; AFGE will cover the other half of Eric's cost, AFL-CIO will cover half of Jackie's cost). Question about whether the cost is all-inclusive or if hotel/airfare is separate (but if not, the locals will cover). Approved.

Dena Briscoe, ATU 689: 15-year anniversary of Brentwood anthrax victims; ceremony later this week to unveil monument on Friday at 8a.

Sandra Falwell, NNU: sign petition concerning school nurses; needs to be one in every school every day. Looking to get 5,000 signatures.

Adjourned 6:40pm

Dena Briscoe, Recording Secretary