Delegate's Meeting Minutes

Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

January 22, 2007

Called to order 6:35P

Swearing-in of new delegates: Sarah Stough, OPEIU 2; Anthony Garland (ATU 689); Joseph Farmer (ATU 689); Roland Jeter (ATU 689); Jackie Jeter (ATU 689); Wilbert Cunningham (ATU 689).

Administered oath of office to Gwend Johnson, new Executive Board member, filling the position of a Representative of the AFL-CIO Constituency Groups.

President Williams waived the regular order of business to hear report from labor-endorsed Montgomery County Council legislators Valerie Ervin -- just elected to her first term -- and George Leventhal, elected last fall to his

Delegate Attendance

Allen, Fred GCIU 538-C
Baxter, Randall AFSCME 3976
Clay, Chuck IATSE 22
Fields, Jr, Daniel SEIU 722
Frederick, Anthony LABORERS 657
Freeman, Jo NWU/UAW 2
Gaines, Riley IBEW 26
Greenhill Sr, Larry IBEW 26
Hershfield, David AFGE 12
Hoffman, Ann   NWU/UAW 2
Hogan, George IBEW 26
Johnson, Gwend CBTU DC
Joseph, Ron TEAMSTERS 639
Newman, Elaine NCAUR
Page, John IATSE 22
Reed, Carnell SEIU 400 PG
Schniderman, Saul AFSCME 2910
Shields, John Washington Bldg Trades Council
Starin, Eric OPEIU 2
Stern, Edward   AFGE 12
Tarlau, Jimmy   CWA 2336
Warrick, Gerald LABORERS 657

second term. Leventhal thanked the Council and Delegates for their support. Conversation about job growth/opportunities in Montgomery County has gone off the rails; traffic drives a lot of the discussion. Proposal introduced last fall to impose a moratorium on growth -- no development between December 2006 and August 2007 (outside a small designated area). But our concern is that this may close the door to job growth, especially for minorities. Here to ask for involvement of the Metro Council in this discussion, to get the voice of the workers heard. Ervin: to change the conversation we need different faces at the table. This affects whether we can build affordable housing, jobs, whether our kids will be able to live in Montgomery County. We need to hear your voices at the table; issues of development affect workers. Asked for statement from the Metro Council that needs of working people for housing and job opportunities not be ignored. Today, Councilmember Praisner -- who introduced the original proposal -- has backed off and the proposal has now been watered down significantly and at this point direct action is no longer necessary. Leventhal suggested that a letter to Praisner in the next few days from the Metro Council expressing our concern and demanding involvement would be helpful.

  Discussion ensued.

Minutes: 12/18 Council minutes approved.

Financial report(s): December Council report received as distributed

Executive Board Action Report

1. From the DC Primary Care Association requesting annual dues. Association membership is $600 annually. $600 renewal approved.
2. From John Hegarty, National President of the Mail Handlers Union, this year's labor chair for the Walk to Cure Juvenile Diabetes, asking the council to sponsor teams or make a contribution to the event to be held here May 6, 2007. Smallest sponsorship is $2500 but any amount appreciated. $300 approved.
3. From United Way requesting the annual Treasury Gift contribution which can be earmarked to the agency of the council's choice. $2,000 approved (noted that this comes back to Community Services Agency)
total: $2,900

Economic Development Proposal

How labor can use economic development issues to organize, increase density, political clout, etc. How do we bring workers from new development into unions. Billions of dollars of development in projects from DC to Prince George to Montgomery County, etc; these will all involve new workers in construction, service etc jobs. Motion approved to support moving forward on this project.

- OPEIU/Washington Gas: Chris Garlock/Sara Stough, OPEIU 2, updated, circulated info/petition, resolution.
- Chris Garlock circulated the anti-war resolution, noting that it builds on previous Iraq War resolutions approved by the Council.
- Evening with Labor Award recommendations.

ACTIONS APPROVED by delegates

Union Cities

- Teamsters 639 strike at Quick Way: Chris Garlock updated
- 2007 Labor FilmFest update: earliest start ever, have organized several committees and welcome anyone who's interested.
- Introduced Andy Richards, new Assistant Mobilizer, helping keep UNION CITY coming out twice a week, website daily updates, plus helping out wherever else needed to assist mobilization efforts.
- MacKenzie Baris, DC Jobs with Justice, reported on Worker Rights Board hearing Tuesday night
- Jackie Jeter (ATU 689) reported on candlelight vigil Tuesday night at Metro

Community Services

- Bowling Tournament: Kathleen McKirchy reported: 1/28/07, still have a few lanes available.

COPE Reports

- General Assembly/County Council Updates: Craig Simpson reported on Potential Municipal Targets for 2007. Involved in Special Election (1/30) in Takoma Park Ward 5, where -- following an email endorsement last week -- the Council endorsed union member Eric Hensal (Painters District Council 51); Chris Garlock has been coordinating this effort, as he lives in Ward 5. General discussion ensued. Candidate Eric Hensal spoke briefly; Chris Garlock invited everyone to help the Saturday blitz, 9:30A at 326 Mississippi for an hour.
- Legislative Reception 12/4: Rick Powell thanked Sonny Reed (SEIU 400) for his financial contribution for the reception, along with other affiliates, including host UFCW

400. Good turnout, including Senator Cardin & Representatives from Montgomery County & Prince George Counties; more than 60 all together.
- DC City Council Update: Rick Powell reported on latest changes in Council committee assignments; Kwame Brown, chair Economic Development; Carol Schwartz, chair Workforce Development and Government Operations. Outlined plans for labor involvement Ward 4 & Ward 7 Special Elections; Tentative schedule as follows: 2/22 questionnaires out (online); begin interviews mid-March; make recommendations at March Council meetings, have campaigns up and running by the end of March. If we can turnout 500 people in each Ward, we could determine the winner, but we'll have to do it right, with adequate volunteers & funding.

Reports
- Jimmy Tarlau, CWA: update on Mt Rainier's attempt to get rid of collective bargaining. Thanked President Williams & Rick Powell for sending letter; collected signatures. On January 2 the Council withdrew their proposal. Tarlau is planning on running for Mt Rainier Council vacancy in May; he looks forward to the Metro Council's support.

- Chuck Clay, IATSE 22: Post reported that Clear Channel is planning big facility; is there a PLAN for that project? And what about a neutrality agreement? May be a bit of putting the cart before the horse but it's best to get ahead of the curve on this stuff; Clear Channel is so big. President Williams said we need more info ASAP so we can figure out what's going on. President Williams asked for an update on the Lincoln Theatre issue; promises by outgoing administration for half-million in funding but new administration not committed to those promises.

- Ann Hofffman, DC Vote: voting rights bill -- HR 328 -- has been reintroduced in the House; Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton thinks it will be passed and signed into law this year but that may be overly optimistic.

- Gwend Johnson, CBTU/CWA: DC-CBTU report: remind everyone that Black History Month -- 2/24 week -- March women's celebration; will get the details to Chris Garlock ASAP for posting. May conference coming up in Chicago; membership dues must be paid up to at least 30 days prior, so get that taken care of. Urged those interested to join DC-CBTU ASAP. Other report is on "Speed Matters" project about high-speed internet access for all. Asking people to run a speed test on your home computer to see what speed your access is.

- Herbert Harris, Railroad Workers; Virginia Rail transportation issue, Amtrak commuter rail, security-related issues, regional BMWE/Teamsters issues etc. He's also active in DC Consumer Utility Board and spoke on some issues related to Board.

Adjourned 8:16P