

37th District Democrats Minutes: March 2021 Membership Meeting

(Via Zoom; John Stafford; March 8, 2021)

1. Meeting Opening (Stephen Reed; 7:08)

2. Opening Issues (Stephen Reed; 7:10)

- The rise in crime against Asian-American communities.
 - The 37th District Democrats stand in support of the Asian-American Community and oppose the rise in violence against Asian-American communities.
- Duwamish Tribal Land acknowledgment.
- February minutes approved.
- Alec comments in acknowledgement of National Women's Month.
 - The 37th District Democrats have an all-woman legislative contingent.
 - We have many individuals serving the 37th District Democrats, on the Seattle City Council, on the King County Council, etc.

3. Update from Representative Adam Smith (Adam Smith; 7:25)

- Key that Joseph Biden is president and not the last individual.
- The stimulus package is critical.
- Biden's priorities: pandemic, recession, racial justice and social equity, climate change.
- The concentration of wealth in our society is the greatest threat to our country.
 - We have tremendous housing problems in a region awash in wealth.
- Questions from members.

4. Update from County Executive Dow Constantine (Dow Constantine; 7:44)

- Pandemic: We have the second best record on Covid infection rates in the country (behind Oahu, Hawaii). We do need to stay vigilante until we achieve much higher vaccination rates.
- Health Through Housing: The county is buying hotel space to help address homelessness.
- Best Start Through Kids: This is not up for renewal.
- Re-election: Dow is running for re-election in the Fall.
- Questions from members.

5. Special Guest Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga (Introduced by Carrie Barnes; 8:11)

- A Community Discussion on Reparations

- Presentation by Dr. Arunga on Reparations – the history of our country, the experience of other nations, options for reparations, etc.
- Questions and discussion from audience.

6. Candidates for King County Conservation District (Various Candidates; 9:31)

- Kali Clark
- Natalie Reber
- John Comerford
- Brittney Bollay
- Melissa Tatro (via video)

7. Candidates for King County Council, District 5 (Two Candidates; 9:46)

- Shukri Olo – Challenger
- Dave Upthegrove – Incumbent

8. Other Agenda Items (9:50)

- Will move discussion of budget to next meeting.
- Vote on resolution dealing with HB 1203 (Community Oversight of Law Enforcement) passes.

9. Good of the Order (9:56)

- Justin – Thanks to people working hard to make our meetings happen.
- Chris – There is an appointed position on the King Conservation District – candidates can announce their intent to run via the website.
- Alec – Wants to invite Chris and others to present on the King Conservation District in April or the near future – what is the nature of the work, etc.?

10. Adjournment (Stephen Reed; 10:02)