



THE

M

D

C

Promoting progressive values since 1956
www.metrodems.org

APRIL NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE



Former Seattle City Councilmember Jim Street and Seattle City Councilmember Mike O'Brien

O'Brien: change land use codes to increase affordable housing

Changing Seattle's land use codes to allow accessory dwelling units (ADU) in single-family neighborhoods can mean increasing the availability of affordable housing, Seattle City Councilmember Mike O'Brien told members and friends of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its March 13 meeting.

In 2016 the Seattle City Council developed a proposal based on community input that would allow homeowners to build backyard and basement units. An environmental impact statement was completed in 2018 and is now before the City Hearing Examiner. A decision is expected in April. If the EIS is acceptable, there will be more public input and Mr O'Brien expects "robust debate" on the issue.

Legislation as proposed in his preferred alternative in the final EIS, Mr O'Brien said would deal with issues such as size, height restrictions, off-street parking, owner occupancy, and number of units allowed in single-family zones. In addition it would address elements of design such as size, location of entries and roof features.

Mr O'Brien's policy objectives in promoting this proposal are to increase ADU production (both volume and variety) in single-family zones, support lower-and middle-income homeowners in developing ADUs, and increase access to ADUs for lower income renters.

If running for office again, he said, he'd run on this issue, as it represents reasonable regulation without radical change, "a politically safe issue."

Mr O'Brien, who represents District 6, was first elected to the Seattle City Council in 2010. He chairs the council's sustainability and transportation committee.

[This program was arranged by MDC's Seattle's Future Task Force as a sequel to the presentation February 13 by Seattle City Councilmember Rob Johnson on affordable housing in Seattle.]



mark your MDC calendar

April 10 – MDC meeting

"What Citizens Should Know About Trade Agreements: who benefits, who loses and how trade agreements relate to the border crisis"

Speakers are Stan Sorscher, labor representative at the Society for Professional Engineering Employee in Aerospace (SPEEA), and Hilary Haden of Alliance for Global Justice.

Location: TBD

April 24 – MDC meeting

"Initiative for Washington's mental health crisis."

Mr. Jim Vollendroff, head of behavioral health medicine at Harborview Medical Center and point person for governor Jay Inslee's mental health care initiative,

Location: Room 1207, Ninth and Jefferson Building at Harborview Medical Center, 908 Jefferson St.

May 8 - MDC meeting

"Port Report from Peter"

MDC member Peter Steinbrueck, former Seattle City Councilmember, was elected to the Seattle Port Commission over a year ago. He will share his personal perspectives on what's going on at the Port that is of great importance to our city and region and the challenges that lie ahead.

Location: TBD

Godden presents her biography

Jean Godden had hoped to use another title for her book – something on the order of "Memoirs of a Bad-Ass Bitch" – but the publisher decided it should be a little more socially acceptable, she explained to members and friends of the Metropolitan Demo-

cratic Club of Seattle at its March 25 meeting. They settled on "Citizen Jean: Riots, Rogues, Rumors and Other Inside Seattle Stories," which starts with a little-known Seattle and ends with a Seattle that is definitely "on the map."



Former Seattle City Councilmember Jean Godden

Ms Godden is a former Seattle City Councilmember and long-time member of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. In her book, she said, she provides her experiences related to a variety of key historical Seattle events and personalities over the last 50+ years. For example, she added, she offers an overview of the efforts to stage a World's Fair and to save the Pike Place Market (once again), and to build the West Seattle Bridge.

During her presentation she related amusing stories about these and other events and about many of the people who were involved. She also described what it was like to be in the newsroom when various

Continued on back

MDC meeting notes

March 13

Early endorsement

The MDC endorsed lifetime honored member Jeanne Kohl-Welles for King County Council.

Health care resolution

The MDC passed a resolution (see below) urging Representative Eileen Cody to hold hearings in the House Health and Wellness Committee on SB 5822 (passed by the Senate Wednesday, March 13), a bill that paves the way to use public funding to cover costs of health care services and products in Washington state.

Whereas the Washington State Senate has passed SB5822, which paves the way to use public funding to cover costs of health care services and products, without waiting for action to be taken by the United States Congress,

Therefore be it resolved that the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle urges Representative Eileen Cody to promptly hold hearings and bring this measure to a vote in the House Health and

Please Note

A permanent meeting place for the MDC has not yet been found. Members will be notified by email as soon as more information is available.

Wellness Committee.

March 25

A new meeting place

Today was the MDC's last meeting at the Plaza 600 Building. Several members will research a number of potential meeting places and report back to the president by Monday, April 1.

Planning an evening event

Dan Fievez suggested that the MDC, in conjunction with the climate change committee of the University Unitarian Church, show a 30-minute video about global warming composed by Christopher Chagnard, a local composer and conductor. The members approved of the idea and asked that the climate change committee or other committee develop and present plans for the evening event.



What's happening

Northwest Progressive Institute's Spring Fundraising Gala will take place Friday, April 26 at the Renton Community Center, 1715 SE Maple Valley Highway, Renton. Reception starts at 5:30 pm, program starts at 7 pm. Full dinner buffet including vegetarian choices. Beer and wine available at cash bar. Master of ceremonies is Senator Manka Dhingra; one of the speakers will be Dr Kim Schrier, US representative.

(As it becomes available, more information about the program/speakers will be emailed to members of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, which is a sponsor of this event.)



Continued from Godden

events broke, such as the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

The highpoints of her time on the Seattle City Council (2004 – 2016) and what she considers her major accomplishments, she said were passing the paid sick leave legislation for Seattle and the paid parental leave legislation for City of Seattle employees.

Ms Godden said her vision for the Seattle is that it will become a national leader in health care and climate change action.

From the editor

Please send notices of upcoming events, letters, articles, and book reviews to Editor Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com or 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 no later than the fourth Wednesday of the month. All contributions are subject to editing. For more information call 206-370-1374.

METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE –**Board of Directors**
Executive committee President Eleanor Munro ▪ President Jack Whisner ▪ Immediate Past President Kiku Hayashi **Directors** Joanna Cullen ▪ Dan Fievez ▪ Sen Pete Francis ▪ Judi Gibbs ▪ Vinod Goswami ▪ Lem Howell ▪ Tyler Mollenkopf ▪ Jayson Morris ▪ Allan Munro ▪ Dr David Rudo ▪ Elizabeth Stanton ▪ Harriet Wasserman ▪ Bert Wyman **Lifetime honored members** Kay Bullitt ▪ Sen Pete Francis ▪ Sen Jeanne Kohl-Welles ▪ Hon Nick Licata

Membership renewal date appears on above label

April 2019

METROPOLITAN
 DEMOCRATIC CLUB
 OF SEATTLE



Eleanor Munro
 1925 41st Ave SW
 Seattle WA 98116

Return Service Requested