**GREATER SEATTLE CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND**

**April 16, 2016**

**Draft—to be approved at the May 21, 2016 meeting.**

* **Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM, 11 members were present.**
* **The presidential release was played.**
* The minutes from the March 19, 2016, meeting were read and approved.
* The treasurer reported a Current balance of $2,430.33; the reported was read and approved.
* We discussed how much we would donate to the state affiliate from the $1,500 raised from the Microsoft bake sale last fall.
* Mike and Cindy moved that we allocate up to $1,000 to assist members to attend the NFB national convention at the discretion of the president to disperse. Recipients will be required to work the NFBW exhibit hall table. They also moved to donate $500 to NFBW. The motion was seconded by Ron Snider and it passed. All people planning to attend the national convention interested in funding should contact Arielle with information such as whether it is your first national convention and what activities you have done with the chapter over the past year.
* Arielle reminded members that DSB clients can apply for funding to attend the NFB national convention through their counselor.
* Mike Mello reported for the fundraising committee. There is no update; he has not had a chance to move forward with Rock Bottom which would give us profits when they release a new beer. He mentioned there are a few other ideas that have not been well pursued.
* Mike Mello gave an update from the social committee. They are planning an evening walk from the sculpture park along the waterfront ending with a dinner. Members thought Friday, May 22 might be nice. Other ideas include an outside happy hour in the summer and potentially a book club. Cindy suggested using a poll website called Doodle for the social committee to suggest times so look out on email for a poll to choose what times work for social activities.
* Marci talked about the Transportation Choices Coalition. There is a proposed route for the light rail. In November we will vote on a Sound Transit 3 proposal to expand the light rail and other routes, such as the Metro lines that have letters. Currently, there is a comment period so visit www.soundtransit3.org to view maps and text descriptions of the proposed expansion. You can comment or fill out a survey online. There will be public meetings to take feedback. Including:
* (All meetings 5:30 to 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted)

-Tuesday, April 19 at Ballard High School, 1418 NW 65 St.

-Thursday, April 21 Evergreen High School, 1210 6 Ave., Tacoma

-Monday, April 25 at Everett Station

-Tuesday, April 26 West Seattle High School 3000 California Ave SW

-April 27, Old Redmond School House Community Center

-Day Meeting April 28 at Union Station on Jackson St. 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

* Sound Transit will vote in June on the final proposal and ballot language. Station locations themselves are not set.
* Proposed light rail lines include one to West Seattle, Ballard expanding the Sound Transit line to Bellevue across the east side to Redmond, and expanding the Northgate line through Shoreline, Linwood and Everett transit centers, potentially stopping at Everett Boeing. Proposed rapid bus transit includes a line on 520 and on the 405 from Burien to its intersection with I5. According to federal law, where it is safe, the bus can use the shoulder to get through traffic. This provision is considered in the proposal. Some stations are proposed at grade, above, or below ground. These decisions have different price tags, tunneling being more costly, so those are not set. It is a 25 year plan, for example, West Seattle not scheduled in 2031 and Ballard after. The plan can be accelerated, they claim they can’t build at once though they have authority to issue bonds up front, their governing legislation doesn’t allow them to do that because it sets them up to have more reserves; they would be vulnerable to a recession by fronting more money. They also said they don’t get all the money at once, it comes in over the course of 25 years. They can do some faster depending on grants. If the vote passes, citizens would have to vote again to revoke it. Alternatively, a recession such as in 2008 prevented Sound Transit from funding ULink which made them push the timeline back. So the timelines could be pushed back because of recession.
* The proposal also includes research studies to scope out lines for future proposals such as the West Seattle line extending to Burien.
* Funding in the proposal for these projects includes a mixture of property and sales tax increases and bonds.
* Marci expects the campaign to ramp up in fall. She would like to see the chapter put together a voter registration guide and potentially a forum on issues important to us.
* Marci gave a state update.
* NFBW will table at a couple of local events. Marci will contact members to help with staffing. An early morning one is hosted by the Foundation Fighting Blindness’s speaker’s bureau with people such as doctors and families interested in blindness improvement research. It is at 850 Republican St. on Saturday, April 30, set up at 7:45 AM; it lasts until lunch. King County libraries are having an AT fair on Saturday, May 14 at a Bellevue library. WTBBL is hosting Dog Day. There are a lot of families going so Marci wants to have a table there on Sunday, May 1 from 2 to 4. Finally, Marci went to a Saving Kids’ Sight event at the Bellevue Public Library with accessible games and other family activities on Saturday, April 9. She passed out literature and connected with several families.
* Members of the NFBW board will meet soon to decide how much money will be allocated to assist members to go to the NFB national convention, so let Marci know if you would like assistance from the state.
* Marci announced she is selling Jernigan tickets which fund peoples’ first convention attendance. Tickets are $10 and the prize is attendance at the 2017 convention for 2 including travel, hotel, registration and banquet tickets and $1,000 cash. They are available until the 2016 convention banquet during which, the drawing will be held.
* Cindy announced that Scott McCallum has been appointed by Governor Inslee to take over Dean Stenehjem’s superintendent position at the Washington State School for the Blind.
* We played and sang along to NFB songs representative of our history.