



PROGRESSIVE
DANE

Rebuilding
politics from the
grassroots up

Forward!

Progressive Dane is
affiliated with the
Independent Progressive
Politics Network.

P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701 | 608/257-4985 | office@prodane.org | www.prodane.org

Vol. XII, No. 11
December 2004

Elections Committee vets hopefuls December 13

The Progressive Dane Elections Committee is preparing to interview our endorsed city officials who are seeking PD endorsement for their next race. Also on the schedule for December interviews are a handful of other candidates who are seeking our endorsement in the spring elections. All 20 seats on the Madison City Council and two Madison school board seats will be filled in the general election on April 5.

Interviews will be held on Monday, Dec. 13, beginning at 6 p.m., at the Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson St. A schedule of interviews will be posted on the PD website, www.prodane.org. It's likely that additional candidates will be interviewed in January.

You don't have to be a regular attendee

of the Elections Committee to participate in the interviews. All members of PD are welcome to take part in some or all meetings and to vote on endorsement recommendations. Those recommendations will be submitted to the general membership at our regular monthly meeting on Dec. 15.

The interview process is a great way to catch up on municipal issues and to get to know the personalities in the spring election. If you want to hear from candidates on a particular issue, the interview is your chance. Time does not permit extended conversations with candidates at the General Membership Meeting. *For more info., call Michael Jacob (712-5475, michaeljacobdc@hotmail.com).*

While you probably weren't watching...

An "unabashedly arrogant" power grab... that "robs rural residents of their voice on land-use issues."

No, not another Wal-Mart. Rather, this is the *Wisconsin State Journal's* description, in its editorial of Nov. 26, of changes within the Dane County committee structure that, by vote of the County Board, shifted leadership of the Comprehensive Planning process from the conservative-dominated Zoning and Land Regulation Committee to the liberal-led Committee on the Environment, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (EANR).

Conservatives are now threatening legal action to reverse that decision and return power to a committee that is deeply resistant to any planning that might hamper development, planned or not. Is this set-back worth worrying about? Is the Smart

Growth initiative dead? If not, what is this wrangling all about?

IT'S JUST POLITICS

The Comprehensive Planning (or "Smart Growth") process responds to a state law requiring all counties and municipalities to create a plan by 2010 to address issues such as transportation, land use, housing, and economic development.

Work groups composed of County Board Supervisors and citizens have been meeting on these topics for well over a year. Consensus on many goals was presented at a "milestone meeting" in July.

Still, if you were following this process you might conclude that progress is very slow, or even halted. Every word in the goals language is hard-fought, and agreement on implementation strategies

seems a long way off.

Last spring, when the liberals won a few more seats on the County Board, the Zoning Committee, previously run by pro-development conservatives, was expected to change composition. That did not happen, thanks to committee appointments by the re-elected County Board Chair, Kevin Kesterson.

For reasons best known to himself, Kesterson appointed a conservative majority (Wendt, Hitzemann, and Jensen). Although he also appointed McDonell and Pertzborn, Kesterson did not reappoint the "dean" of the Zoning Committee, John Hendrick. Thus encouraged, the Zoning and Land Regulation Committee turned even further to the right.

Charged with the responsibility to name members of the Comprehensive Plan-

See "Power Grab" p. 3

Forward!

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Forward is the local chapter newsletter of the New Progressive Party in Dane County, Wisconsin.

Progressive Dane is a democratic, membership-run organization with the following committee structure (all meetings are held at the PD office, 122 State St., 4th floor, unless otherwise noted):

Steering Committee coordinates major activities, oversees the progress of other committees, and sets the agenda for the general membership meetings. Meetings are open to all PD members.

Co-chair: Brenda Konkel (251-2412)

Co-chair: Nick Berigan (257-0187)

Next meeting: Wed., Jan. 12, 7-9 p.m.

Location to be announced.

Elections Committee

Chair: Michael Jacob (245-0894)

Next meeting: Dec. 13, 7 p.m. Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson St.

Newsletter Consortium

Contact: Chris Babiarz (257-3288)

Contact us if you are interested in helping with newsletter writing, editing, or layout.

Outreach Committee

Contact: PD office, 257-4985

Policy Committee

Chair: Ron Richardson (256-7144)

Arts Policy Task Force

Contact: Jonathan Zarov (301-0982)

Next meeting: Thurs., Jan. 27, 6:30 p.m.

Drug Policy Task Force

Chair: David Chastain (243-4343)

Next meeting: Mon., Jan. 10, 7 p.m.

Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson St. Madison

Education Task Force

Contact: Kristin Forde (fly4d@juno.com)

Environmental Task Force

Chair: Brett Schumacher (238-3441)

Economic Issues Task Force

Contact: Vicky Selkove (772-6046)

People First Planning Campaign

Contact: Ron Richardson (256-7144)

Keep hope alive globally, act locally

Progressive Dane will host an Inauguration Day event, aiming to get progressive people more involved in local politics where they can really make a difference. It will be a time to vent and to celebrate, with an open mic (for general

ranting, poetry, music, or whatever you want to convey), prominent local speakers, food, drinks, and camaraderie. Join us at Cafe Montmartre, 127 E. Mifflin St, Madison on January 20th from 6-9 p.m.!

East Isthmus Neighborhoods Planning Council

ANNUAL MEETING and CITIZEN FORUM on LAND USE

Monday, December 13th 2004

United Way Building, 2059 Atwood Ave.

5:30 p.m. Doors open for food & informational displays

Program 6-9 p.m.

Childcare and a light meal provided

Please sign up to attend at 204-0834 or einpc@tds.net

Current and upcoming planning and plan implementation processes for redevelopment in our area are changing the future of land use, which will affect access to housing, employment, food, transportation, and other services, as well as aesthetics, safety, environmental impact, and health in our neighborhoods. Come to the EINPC's Annual Meeting and Citizen Forum and learn more!

*What is "Land Use Planning" and why should you care about it? How does it relate to housing, transportation, energy consumption, sense of community, access to food and services, and the many other things we care about in our community?

*What is "TIF" (tax incremental financing)? Why are so many developers requesting it from the City? Can we use it to implement neighborhood plans? Can we as a community afford to pay for it?

*If we increase density in East Isthmus neighborhoods, will it help prevent sprawl and loss of farmland and open space in other parts of the county? What is the County as a whole doing to try to prevent sprawl, and how do those efforts impact us here in the East Isthmus?

*What's going on with Rayovac, Don Miller, the East Washington Avenue/Capitol Gateway BUILD planning process, Kmart, and other area redevelopment projects, and what are your neighbors doing about it?

Progressive Dane Office: 257-4985

E-mail: office@prodane.org

Web Site: http://www.prodane.org/

Submit articles, meeting times and announcements for the January newsletter to Beth Harper (238-8147 or harper@danenet.net) by Noon, Tuesday, January 11

Production and Circulation Consortium
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Send all correspondence to:

**Progressive Dane
P.O. Box 1222
Madison, WI 53701**



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The first Kathy Schroeder Memorial Award will be awarded at the 2004

Progressive Dane Snowball
Friday December 10
5-7 p.m.
Cardinal Bar
418 East Wilson Street
Madison

Announcing the inaugural Kathy Schroeder Memorial Award

in honor of a Progressive Dane member, friend, or ally:

- Who gives generously of his/her time and energy to strengthen and expand community organizing efforts that serve ordinary citizens;
- Who cares passionately about fairness;
- Whose work is marked by humor, creativity, experience, and foresight;
- Who makes connections between different issues and constituencies;
- Who takes responsibility for organizational details;
- Who seeks out, welcomes, and mentors the next generation of activists;
- Whose hypocrisy-detector is in good working order;
- Who can learn, reconsider, and reframe strategies; and
- Who has a long record of fidelity to a vision of a democratic society

Power Grab

(from page 1)

ning Steering Committee, it stalled. Required by a vote of the Board to hold meetings in the evening (when more citizens, not just bureaucrats and paid lobbyists, could attend) some sub-committees of the Comprehensive Planning process ceased to hold meetings at all. To get the process moving again, the County Board, with leadership from PD-endorsed and other liberal supervisors, voted in September to make the EANR responsible for appointments to the Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee.

Responsibility for the Comprehensive Planning is assigned to the Zoning Committee in most counties. Dane County conservatives argue that under state law only the Zoning Committee is eligible to run the comprehensive planning process. The Dane County attorney disagrees. State funding for the process, as well as the outcomes of the process itself, is in the balance.

“Madison liberals stifle rural voices.” It’s an inflammatory but inaccurate claim. Membership on the Comprehensive Planning sub-committees has not changed substantially, and the rural/urban balance has been maintained. In addition, any rural or urban citizen can join the subcommittee as an advisory member.

Kyle Richmond, Chair of the EANR and a PD-endorsed official, thinks that the urban/rural split has been over-played: “Most rural residents want the same things that Madison residents want: good land use policies, preservation of green space, and sustainable economic development.” Nonetheless, when conservatives accuse liberals of being “arrogant,” chances are that the stakes are higher than they first appear.

In the Comprehensive Planning process, the stakes are very high: development rights in the green space surrounding Madison and its suburbs are very valuable, and developers prefer to have no constraints on their designs. A Comprehensive Plan has

a chance, at least, of guiding development and preserving green space for decades into the future, and it deserves our close attention now. The Plan is not just an afterthought that affects only unincorporated areas. Although legally binding only on unincorporated areas, it will provide a vision for cities and villages in the county, including Madison.

Your role: Citizen involvement is the best antidote to obstructionism and foot-dragging by elected officials and special interests. Pay attention to the Comprehensive Planning process. Be suspicious when players are accused of power grabs, especially when the stakes are not explained. Check on work group membership and meetings schedules at www.daneplan.org. Contact members and let them know what you think of their progress. Review the documents they produce, and, most important, try to get to a meeting or two. The People First Planning Task Force is PD’s voice in the Comprehensive Planning process. Join us to get involved. *Contact Ron Richardson (608-256-7144)*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Don't forget: December meeting is one week early!!

December Meeting

6:30-8:30 p.m., Wed.,
December 15, 2004

Madison Public Library
201 W. Mifflin St.

If you need an interpreter, materials in alternative formats, or other accommodations, please contact the PD office, 257-4985, one week in advance of the meeting.

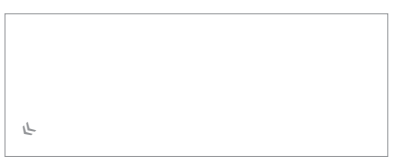
The Agenda

- Elections Committee Report on candidate interviews and probable vote on endorsements (see story page 1)
- Update on Dane County Social Services budget
- Update on Dane County Comprehensive Planning process (see story page 1)

Chair: **Mary Anglim (608-249-0031)**
mtanglim@charter.net



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Volunteer Night
Help label our newsletter and complete other easy tasks.
Meet other PD members!
Tuesday, January 18, 5:30 p.m.
PD Office, 122 State St., 4th Floor
Snacks and refreshments provided.

If your renewal date is 12/1/04 or earlier, it is time to renew!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

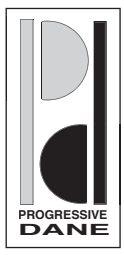
Progressive Dane
P.O. Box 1222
Madison, WI 53701

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Zip _____ Phone (eve/day) _____ Email _____

- I support the principles and purpose of Progressive Dane. **Please accept my membership.**
- Please renew my membership** in Progressive Dane.



Sustaining membership: Amount: \$_____/month (minimum \$5/month)
To pay via bank draft, please attach a voided check, or the 1st month's check payable to Progressive Dane.

or

Annual membership: \$50 Regular \$250+ Benefactor \$100 Supporting

\$75 Contributing \$36 Basic \$12 Low Income

Mail to: Progressive Dane, P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701 For more info: (608) 257-4985