

PTE 17 Seattle Chapter
Meeting Minutes May 12, 2016

Officers present:

President Darlene Flynn

Vice President Ford Walker

Secretary Ulysses Hillard

Treasurer Gabriela Vega was out of town.

Minutes by Ulysses

Attendees introduced themselves.

Staff Report

Business Representative Charles Primm reported that PTE 17 is currently trying to get an injunction against requests for public employees' private information. These requests have hit the State offices but have also been sent for units in the City. One currently outstanding request from a media organization in California (see attachment) seeks information from SPD employees, both sworn and civilian.

Member Laura Charnley reported that SPD received a request for public information in the past that included disclosing Social Security numbers, home addresses, birth dates, and identifying photos. She continued that she had been the victim of identity theft and is very concerned about here identifying information being circulated.

Officers Report

Some REC Delegates reported receiving their REC packets. The group briefly revisited the cancellation of the March REC meeting. Mary Davis reported that she reviewed the packet and it indicated that PTE 17 has a total budget of around five million dollars. She noted that the cost savings from cancelling the REC amounted to less than one tenth of one percent of that amount.

MLK County Labor Council Delegates Report

Ulysses reported on recent MLKCLC Mobilization for May Day and that the media coverage this year was better: It distinguished between the El Comite-organized march from Judkins Park to downtown in the afternoon and the "Anti-capitalist" march in the evening on Capitol Hill.

Ulysses announced a gathering supporting Northwest Accountability Project (among others) at May 18th at the Wells Fargo building to approach Wells Fargo management about one of their Exec VP's support of various awful things via the Murdoch Charitable Trust.

Ulysses announced a rally at Safeco Field on May 20th supporting IATSE Local 15 riggers who are fighting for recognition and collective bargaining rights from Rhino Riggers Northwest.

Steward Reports

Medical Coverage

Joe Steinmeyer directed attention to informing new members to make copies of everything they sign during their new employee orientation. The City tried to claim that a member never enrolled in medical coverage when they found no record of the paperwork in their own records. Darlene indicated that this was doubly bogus because all employees are supposed to be automatically enrolled in a basic Group Health plan by default.

Jayme Helgeson also reported having trouble. He said the web-based enrollment did not work correctly when he used it.

Ford asked if Group Health being bought by Kaiser will affect members' coverage.

Management Actions

Sal Sailik reported on a crackdown on scheduling and breaks within a division of the Drainage and Wastewater Line of Business branch of SPU following a new manager (Andy Strong) becoming that division's director. PTE 17 stewards and staff are tracking the situation.

Contracting Out

Ulysses reported on monitoring contracting out. He reported that PTE 17 are investigating one instance of SPU requesting to contract out engineering support for pipe lining projects as well as one already signed contract for engineering support that slipped under the radar. He indicated that PTE 17 would not likely grieve the pipe lining contract request as it is work that would not be a meaningful loss to PTE 17 engineers.

Jayme Helgeson reported that a contract with Evergreen for Aging and Disability case managers will lapse on 2016-03-03 and that the City is currently soliciting new contracts. The scope of the previous and the new contract is work that is within the job description of City social work case managers.

Space Planning

Megan Neuman said her steward training included direction to let things happen and then file grievances. She pointed out that this does not seem to make sense - it doesn't work.

Arabela Corcoro reported that her unit is about to see more people crammed into the same office space.

Chris DeMaagd reported that he primarily came to the chapter meeting to hear an update regarding "Space Planning".

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM. Attendance did not reach quorum and so the April meeting minutes were not approved.