

Platform Steering Meeting March 22, 2007

In attendance:

Rebecca Browning

Nino Gallo

Diane Johnson

Larry Smith

Jonathan Singer

To recap, the following was our agenda for the evening:

1. What **areas of interest/committees** to each of us gravitate towards. Please look over the attached timeline and think about where you would like to see yourself involved as the year moves on.

2. **Program: We will want to set a schedule for the forums in the coming months.** Rick has agreed that we should go ahead and stick with the Exec approved plan of having the forums held in conjunction with monthly meetings. There are pros and cons. The most pro is that everyone (party leaders and many Dems) comes out to this night anyway and we don't have to burn ourselves out with another meeting. The con is the quality of feedback time for participants. It may not be so hard if we assure that at most of these meetings, we start as early as possible and stay (opt in) to 9:15 or 9:30 (note that people coming just for the forums will be coming in at 7:30 and not have to sit for such a long meeting time). We can also add an additional meeting as we wrap up the initial phase of revision to allow for more deliberation amongst participants who have been attending the forums in the preceding months. Whatever, we will want to keep our eye on the outcome over the next few meetings to see if this does really serve our purpose.

3. We are going to want to be sure to get the committee overseeing the Platform on the Web and the blog together and **look at ways that we can respond more spontaneously to the concerns of the times** and still maintain an orderly and accountable process.

4. From Angelique:

I'm just getting over a bad cold, combined with allergies (not a fun combo) and I am not sure if will make it tonight. I would like to advocate for getting input by going *into* communities, as well as having the community come to us. I will talk with Robin Bohanan about their "survey in a box" tool and how the City has worked to get feedback on issues from a wider, more inclusive range of participants by going out to them. If I don't see you tonight, perhaps you could put this out there and see who else would like to work on it. I'm thinking Nino Gallo or Sam Weaver might find this a good fit.

5. We will want to check to see **what part of our timeline is not being covered, if any, and other new business, if any.**

6. We will want to **set future steering and sub-committee meetings.**

Minutes:

Program

The majority of the evening's discussion was focused on the program. The following is the proposed lineup of issues forums for the coming months:

April: Education with Andrew Romanoff

May: Ethics and government (campaign reform/impeachment/freedom of information)

June: Civil Liberties

July: Foreign Policy and National security

August: Conservation/environment

September: Healthcare

October: Immigration

November: economic justice and prosperity

Pros and Cons of holding our forums following our BCDP monthly Exec committee meeting were discussed. We determined we still want to go ahead with this on a trail basis since Dems and Dem leaders already identify this evening as a time for Dem business. We want to reach as many voters as possible without spreading ourselves too thin. We also realize that we may need to adjust the schedule as current events unfold and HQ needs come up during the year and/or the caucus schedule gets moved.

Blog

To ensure as much public input into the forum discussions as possible, we will want to invite people to submit questions for upcoming issues forums on our blog and use them to help focus the discussion of an issue. We will also want to ensure space on the blog for people to submit concerns about current hot issues, which will allow for more spontaneity and provide an outlet for political frustration. Jonathan will look into this.

Broadening Community Outreach

In response to Angelique's concern that we do more to reach out to an even broader public right from the get-go rather than wait till the community deliberation process next year, some fruitful ideas developed:

1. Exploratory (Host) committees could take on the task of bringing together community discussion regarding an identified platform issue in the months preceding that issue's presentation at a Wednesday forum at HQ. These could be small (or not) group discussions involving the general public and leaders in a particular field (political or not and possibly of various persuasions) that would begin the process of reframing an issue, in light of current events. A host committee would determine the number of meetings held. They would also identify and involve key leaders to present the issue at the main forum.

By the time of that event, and with the help of additional community input from the blog and other channels, we should have a powerful and dynamic presentation ready to go. (As I am writing this, I am thinking that there would also be some wonderful background material generated that could be presented on the web for voters to go to in prep for the forums and later platform survey voting.)

Group discussion around immigration, for instance could go right out to the communities involved and, hopefully, members from those communities would then be more likely to come to that issue's forum when it happens.

2. We did determine that we would follow Deb's lead as to the whereabouts of monthly Exec meetings, but that the one meeting we would want to make sure was held elsewhere than at HQ in Boulder would be the one on immigration.
3. A movable/portable platform: Diane Johnson, who joined us for the first time this evening, suggested that we send a van out to neighborhoods and events with a platform questionnaire to bring the discussion to the streets. Whether or not this is the form such outreach takes, her suggestion did rekindle some of the interest that last year's platform committee had in getting out to the Farmer's market and other public events with a questionnaire. This is well worth looking into.

Future Platform Steering Committee Meetings:

We decided that we would continue to meet every other Thursday, beginning April 5, at 7:30 till this initial planning phase feels complete. We suggest we allow another month or two and then proceed as needed. We still need to identify members of key committees.

Update and What's Next:

Deb has expressed her concern about our meeting after monthly Exec meetings. We will have to start our forums at 7:45 and be prepared for people's restlessness if we go beyond 9:00. My hope is that, if we have done our prep work sufficiently and drive people to the blog and other channels for community input, we will feel we have well covered an issue by the time of a forum. We have to remember that we are doing more outreach than anyone ever thought we could and new venues will probably arise as the year goes on. But we will have to remain flexible and go back to the drawing boards when and if we have to.

To ensure this works well, **we need to form host committees** (John Hagenbrok has already begun to explore the healthcare issue—we're off to a great start) for the various issues we propose to cover in the following months. **ALSO**, in light of the fact that the motion to change caucuses to February looks as if it is moving forward in the legislature, **we may need to look at clustering several issues together**. We need to keep this in mind as we form host committees.

Our next test for all of this is **our first Wednesday forum April 11th on education**. I have talked with Deb and Sandy about this and we are sending off to Andrew Romanoff a copy of the education issue as framed in last year's platform. He may have a totally different agenda in light of events at the legislature today, but we will want him to keep in mind that our discussion will help us with reframing our platform focus for 2008 and address, wherever

possible, our already determined BCDP education concerns from 2006. I have also suggested that we reach out to other ed leaders (e.g., Evie Hudak and Cindy Carlilse) to invite them to offer a response to Andrew's report and add further concerns they might have. This planning has been done on-the-go as needed, given the time we have to put this together, but **I would sure appreciate anyone with concerns about education matters to contact me and help direct this process ASAP.**

Also, Rick and others interested in wordsmithing/editorial, it would be great if you might look over the 2006 issue presentation for education and see if you would already ID some initial reframing that might help inform our focus and questions on the 11th. **At our next meeting we will want to look at ways to coordinate program, wordsmith and blog development.**

Would everyone please review the forum schedule and ID areas of interest you might have so that we can begin to focalize our host committees for each issue? I am attaching below our contact list again. Let's see if we can zero in on areas of interest at or before our next meeting.

Also, we definitely need someone to take on **publicity** as part of our outreach development. It would be great to begin to get some press on the overall process and on the specific monthly discussions as they come up.

Rebecca

Contact list and areas of interest (note that if I have colored interest areas, that is because I am not absolutely sure that someone has agreed to this or if I am just making assumptions—we'll get this right in time):

Name	Phone	Committee/s	Host Committees
Rick Blauvelt:	303-516-1274	Editorial	
Rebecca: Browning	303-444-2177	Program/Community Outreach	Education/as needed
Barbara Connors:	303-710-0701	Editorial/wordsmith	
Rachel Dane:	720-470-2617		
Ken Debow:	303-440-1321	Statistical Analysis	Ethics and Government
Angelique Espinoza:	303-818-2032	Community outreach/Program	Immigration
Judy Feland:	303-444-5008		
Nino Gallo:	303-817-8115	Community outreach/Program	Immigration
Todd Grant:	303-319-9772		
John Hagenbrok:	720-323-9027	Program	Healthcare
Bill Hyde:	303-499-8422		
Diane Johnson	505-779-3343	Community Outreach	
Angie Layton:	303-926-1197		
Ivan Meek:	303-807-3858		
Linda Palmer:	303-440-1321	Editorial	
Heather Pauze:	303-875-4448	Statistical Analysis/outreach	
Jonathan Singer:	303-875-4727	Statistical/leadership liaison/blog	
Larry Smith:	303-443-3678		
Sam Weaver:	303-545-2563		