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The waiting game

Pride Northwest
community meeting
tests patience and
frustrates attendees

BY JONATHAN KIPP

Jordana Sardo showed up to be heard. She even prepared a statement to read to Pride Northwest's board of directors.

The July 13 gathering was billed as a "community meeting," and Sardo thought she was going to have a chance to speak her peace. After all, she prepared more than 600 words outlining her concerns.

She sat just feet from a microphone that stood in the middle of the crowded room. And she waited. But, more than an hour into the meeting, Sardo began realizing the microphone wasn't going to get used.

After a constructive but lengthy group exercise of "Keep, Change, Drop, Add" led by facilitator Guadalupe Guajardo, some of the meeting's attendees started to get restless.

Many had come to show support for two longtime board members who were voted out in June. They were there to demand accountability and to get information about how and why Tamara Swan and Janna MacAuslan were dismissed. Some alluded to corruption among current board members, while others just wanted answers.

"I want to know why," one woman said. She also was concerned about how money is handled by Pride Northwest board members.

Sardo finally decided to speak up: "I'm concerned about the lack of accountability to the community," she said, adding that she, too, had learned of the dismissal of the two board members, "which was in violation of the bylaws."

"When can we get a financial report?" Sardo wanted to know.

Others expressed their concerns that the board isn't accountable to the community, leading to and encouraging rumors and distrust. They asked for a more public process.

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County Says, 'I Do'

After Gresham expresses
widespread support,
commissioners unanimously
approve domestic partner registry

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