

## **From Justice for Arfee Facebook page (posted by Bjorn Handeen):**

August 26, 2014 KCRCC –Dog Protection Act

There were no new or old items of business to be processed at the August 26<sup>th</sup> Kootenai County Republican Central Committee (KCRCC) meeting besides the two resolutions I submitted last month. Since there really was nothing else, I knew my resolutions would at least get a hearing.

The first resolution had to do with demanding greater transparency, which includes providing copies of the agenda to the public who attend the meetings. I remember one entertaining exchange with former State Representative Gary Ingram, who asked me if I thought that the increased scrutiny by the public of our failed resolutions would be a positive thing for the Republican Party. I replied that no one authors more failed resolutions than I do, and I am perfectly willing to endure the increase in visibility.

But in the end, after much debate, the first motion failed. This was an ominous sign for the Dog Protection Resolution, and worse, when I scanned the sizable audience, I didn't see any obvious "Justice for Arfee" supporters.

The Chairman then read my "Dog Protection" resolution. I moved that we accept the resolution as written, and Don Bradway seconded. I then had a chance to say a few words in support of the motion.

My remarks were brief. I spoke about how this issue is important to our community, and our neighbors are looking to us to take a position on matters that have relevancy to them.

The first speaker to oppose the resolution was Duane Rasmussen, who dismissed it by calling it the "Arfee Resolution." He went on to say that the KCRCC would become laughing stock if we passed this "silly resolution."

It was time for another supporter of the resolution to speak, but no one rose. Therefore, the chairman of KCRCC called on another opponent of the motion, Balance North Idaho board member Tom Cronin. He began his remarks with a joke about how we shouldn't want to emulate Colorado. He spoke about how the Colorado bill is a poor one, how it is an unfunded mandate, and that it expands government by creating a statewide panel. It wasn't a bad idea, he said, and suggested this problem should be handled in the licensing and education side. All in all, it was a reasoned and serious speech. His last sentence, contemptuously asking "couldn't I find anything better than Colorado?" I found unnecessary. I appreciated his serious research and presentation debating the issue.

The question was "called", which shuts down debate. In the end, only a handful of committeeman voted for my resolution, while about 30-some voted "No!!"

But I already know what I am going to do for next month.