

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California
Milton Marks Auditorium
Wednesday, March 27, 2013
7:00 p.m.

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Note: A majority of the members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and of one or more Board committees, are members of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee (SFDCCC). The law is not clear as to whether the open meeting requirements of state and local law apply to SFDCCC meetings attended by these Board members. Out of abundance of caution, the Board members and the SFDCCC have agreed to comply with these open meeting laws.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call 7:11 p.m.

Present:

Members: Kat Anderson, David Chiu, Petra DeJesus, Bevan Dufty, Zoe Dunning, Kelly Dwyer, Mary Jung, Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman, Trevor McNeil, Leah Pimentel, Alix Rosenthal, Arlo Hale Smith, Scott Wiener

Ex Officio Members: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder); Congresswoman Jackie Speier (proxy Brian Perkins); Attorney General Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild); State Senator Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka); Assemblymember Phil Ting (proxy Walt Donner)

Represented by Proxy: Matt Dorsey (proxy Joshua Abeyta)

Absent excused: Malia Cohen, Bill Fazio, Tom Hsieh, Meagan Levitan, Carol Migden

Absent: John Avalos, Eric Mar, Nancy Pelosi, Leland Yee

Post-roll call arrivals: David Campos (7:35 pm); Leslie Katz (7:25 pm), Tom Ammiano (proxy Kim-Shree Maufas 7:13 pm)

2. Public Comment

Susan Pfeifer, Vice President of Westside Democratic Club, thanked Mary Jung, Trevor McNeil and Meagan Levitan for appearing at Westside Democratic

Club monthly meeting to demystify the DCCC. Provided update on Organizing for Action (OFA).

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda

M/S/C (Brian Perkins/David Chiu) Approved by acclamation.

4. Approval of Minutes

M/S/C (Hene Kelly/Arlo Hale Smith) Approved by acclamation.

Member Dufty was excused from the meeting at 7:20 pm.

5. Reports

- a) **Chair:** Jung reported fundraiser was very successful. DCCC members were amazing and thanked everyone for their participation. We set the groundwork for future events. Raised \$167,000. We can keep our Executive Director (ED) for a year without a problem. Donations are still trickling in.

Convention is coming up. All members should attend. Let Mary or Executive Director know if you cannot attend – the earlier the better. A proxy has to be arranged. Proxies cannot just show up without proper CDP notification. ED will call you about this. Please check in with her.

The new delegate meet and greet is now on Saturday, April 6, from 10 am to noon at the Hatchery located at 645 Second Street. Hene Kelly is running opposed for Region 6 Director, so she needs a large SF contingent there. Please RSVP for this event.

- b) **Voter Registration** – McNeil said new citizen operations were lovely yesterday. If there are clubs doing voter reg activities, please let McNeil know because the bounty program is back up. There are workshops about registration which will be offered at the convention. Please check those out. Be aware that there is on-line registration. It is changing the nature of voter reg.
- c) **Club Chartering** – Leah Pimentel reported there was a well-attended Presidents Cabinet meeting earlier tonight. About 13 leaders participated. Explained the chartering process.

- d) **Communications** – Joshua Abeyta (Matt Dorsey’s proxy) stated newly adopted bylaws are now posted on the website. Note the noticing requirements for agendas and when Democratic clubs endorse non-Democrats, and about recording meetings. Dorsey is able to work on policies and procedures manual if the committee wants to activate. Proxy George Broder asks that such a manual maintain that no funds will be used to attack fellow Democrats. There was a request for subcommittee volunteers to work on updating the Policy and Procedures Manual.
- e) **Finance** – Zoe Dunning confirmed close to \$170,000 was raised March 8. Net is from \$130,000 to \$140,000. We had 420 guests. Fund- and friend-raising was phenomenal. Leader Pelosi and the Mayor fired up the crowd. We had 100% participation from the DCCC members – whether giving or getting the money. Thank you for that.

Member Leslie Katz arrived at 7:28 pm.

- f) **Treasurer** – There was no report.
- g) **Executive Director** – Ally Hergenraeder announced the DCCC is moving offices this weekend and asked for a volunteer to help drive the U-Haul. Kim-Shree Maufas volunteered to help at 1 p.m. Students from SFSU Democrats are helping. The phone number is the same. You can also text her at this number: (415) 626-1161. There are boxes full of office supplies. If anyone would like to pick up supplies for schools, please arrange a time. There is also artwork from Debra Walker that needs to be picked up.

Fundraiser thanks yous went out. Campus organizing will resume after the move. FDR Democratic Club will do voter registration at all Sunday Streets. Working on a template for new business cards for members to take to the convention.

- 6. **Resolution: Prop 13** (Rafael Mandelman/Alix Rosenthal) Proposed resolution expressing the San Francisco Democratic Party’s support for closing a Proposition 13 loophole, and requiring commercial properties to be reassessed annually; and communicating this position to Democratic elected officials and delegates at the California Democratic Party Convention.

Discussion: A number of county committees are submitting resolutions like this. Want to close the loophole that commercial property rarely gets reassessed. Assemblymember Phil Ting popularized this activity and want to thank him. Assemblymember Tom Ammiano also has legislation related to this. According to member Kelly, Ammiano uses her family as an example in touting his legislation.

Katz suggested this be submitted to the Resolutions Committee to accept it as a late resolution. We should modify it and submit it as soon as possible. Change it to "California Democratic Party." She will make changes and turn it in.

Smith stated he has a problem with the way it is worded. A lot of small business owners will sell out or go bankrupt if they did not have the protection of Prop. 13 – particularly minority owners will have a problem with this. This should not be proposed with no floor. Need to focus on properties of \$2 million and more or something like that.

McNeil remarked that he trusted Assemblymember Ting to have thought that through.

Jung asked Smith if he would like to change the resolution to reflect what he said?

Kelly opined it would have to be changed completely. Suggested "Resolve that SF DCCC supports requiring commercial properties to be re-assessed when they are sold."

Scott Wiener remarked he thought the resolution was vague enough now and would be surprised if the CDP had not already gone on record to support this statewide.

Mandelman agreed with Wiener's assessment.

Wiener suggested adding the word "larger" to read "larger commercial properties to be assessed annually."

Perkins said it should say fixing the change of ownership loophole.

Wiener stated the fundamental objection is that a large building like the Bank of America building has any protection at all.

Rosenthal added this is not a loophole at all. This is more about eliminating commercial properties. We will add “larger” in the first RESOLVE.

Mandelman asked to call the question.

M/S/C (Rosenthal/Mandelman) to amend the resolution with “larger.” This passed by acclamation. Senator Feinstein’s proxy abstained.

M/S/C (Rosenthal/Mandelman) to pass the resolution as amended passed by acclamation with the exception that Senator Feinstein abstained.

- 7. Resolution: Trans Month of Action 2013** (Matt Dorsey/Rafael Mandelman) Proposed resolution expressing the San Francisco Democratic Party’s support for the “National Trans Month of Action 2013: Trans Healthcare Access,” to expand awareness about the importance of access to basic medically-necessary healthcare for transgender people; and to urge allies in labor to pledge to bargain for trans-inclusive healthcare benefits in the future.

Discussion: 19% of transgender are denied care based on their identity. 50% of trans delay preventive care. Want these issues to be focus of labor unions around contracts, etc.

M/S/C (Kelly/McNeil) passed by acclamation with the exception that Senator Feinstein abstained.

The following added their names to be sponsors of the resolution: Petra DeJesus, Leslie Katz, Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, Kelly Dwyer, Hene Kelly, Zoe Dunning, Leah Pimentel, David Campos and David Chiu.

- 8. Resolution: Participation by Immigrants** (David Chiu) Proposed resolution expressing the San Francisco Democratic Party’s support for comprehensive immigration reform; committing to meaningful engagement by noncitizens, including assisting with voter registration and participating in other DCCC activities; and stating the DCCC’s intention to amend its bylaws to allow noncitizens who intend to become Democrats to serve as DCCC proxies.

Discussion: Chiu stated he wanted the Party to be on the record about comprehensive immigration reform. We are the party for immigrants. Part of this resolution is forward-looking. Republicans are focusing on this issue. In our current bylaws, designees for elected officials and ex officio members do not need to be citizens.

Member Wiener left at 7:47 pm.

Campos said this is a great resolution and want to raise the issue. In the Latino community, there are those who are eligible to become a citizen but cannot afford to pay the fees to become a citizen. Fees amount to thousands of dollars. E.G., Dream Act students cannot afford to pay the fees. What might the party be able to do about this? Most probably want to become Democrats. Citizen application is about \$800.

Smith responded that Chiu has raised an issue that goes to the core of the Democratic Party. As long as people declare their intent, they should be allowed to vote. This will beat Republicans to the punch. This is a step in the right direction, but it goes way beyond our committee.

Chiu is considering proposing something at the state level. This issue hopefully will be taken off the table in the next few months. In the meantime, we have to keep pushing.

M/S/C (Kelly/Smith) to amend the resolution as follows: Add “who is not a citizen or otherwise ineligible to vote” in second to last line. This passed by acclamation with the exception of Senator Dianne Feinstein, who abstained.

M/S/C (Chiu/Kelly) to pass the resolution as amended passed by acclamation with the exception that Senator Feinstein and Congresswoman Jackie Speier, who abstained.

The following added their names to be sponsors of the resolution: Petra DeJesus, David Campos, Trevor McNeil, and Kelly Dwyer.

9. New Business

Perkins announced an April 8 open house at Congresswoman Speier’s new space.

Kelly announced the April 11 COPE fundraiser for the SF Labor Council and encouraged all members to attend and support labor.

10. Adjournment

M/S/C (Chiu/McNeil) Adjourned at 8:04 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Kat Anderson
Recording Secretary
Democratic County Central Committee*

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