

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California
Milton Marks Auditorium
Wednesday, April 24, 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 at 7:08 pm

Present:

Members: Kat Anderson, John Avalos, David Campos, David Chiu, Malia Cohen, Petra DeJesus, Matt Dorsey, Bevan Dufty, Zoe Dunning, Kelly Dwyer, Bill Fazio, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Hene Kelly, Meagan Levitan, Rafael Mandelman, Carole Migden, Leah Pimentel, Alix Rosenthal, Arlo Hale Smith, Scott Wiener

Ex Officio Members: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder); U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier (proxy Brian Perkins), Attorney General Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild); State Senator Leland Yee (proxy John Rizzo); State Senator Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka); Assemblymember Phil Ting (proxy Jason Wong); Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (proxy Kim-Shree Maufas)

Represented by Proxy: Leslie Katz (Zoe Dunning)

Absent excused: Eric Mar, Trevor McNeil

Absent: U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

Post-roll call arrivals: Chui (7:24); Cohen (7:22); DeJesus (7:15); Levitan (7:22); McNeil (7:17); Rosenthal (7:10); Yee (7:22)

2. Public Comment

Terry Rolleri – no wall on waterfront.

Jim Chappell asked that the DCCC continue the vote on 8 Washington until August; don't change the process, the timing. This project has been in planning for 7 years.

Brad Paul – power point presentation to show alternatives to 8 Washington; vote against height increase. Spoke for 2 minutes, using time requested by Mardi Kildebeck.

Alec Bash – Former city planner and Port employee has followed project for 7 years; 8 Washington fully conforms to SF designs.

Manny Flores – rep Carpenters Local 22 SF; asks for a continuance of this project; parties should step back and take a look at all the elements of this project.

Eugene Lee – read letter in support of continuing the vote on 8 Washington; no premature endorsement. Letter by Corinne Woods, co-chair of Port of SF's Central Waterfront Advisory Group.

Louise Renne – 4 reasons why 8 Washington should not have been approved: 1) height – this exceeds height of freeway 2) it is the size of a football field like a wall 3) setting a precedent; 4) a public safety problem re: sewer main.

Jim Cunningham – No wall on the waterfront; vote no now.

Paul Page – Vote no against the continuance. This project gives away the crown jewels of the City. Invites similar projects all along the waterfront.

Yee (Rizzo), Cohen and Levitan arrived 7:22 pm

Jamie Whitaker – Concerned Democrat for Rincon Hill. Against 8 Washington.

Michael McKenna – IBEW. Do not support early endorsement.

Jon Golinger – directs the campaign No Wall on the Waterfront.

Lee Radner – chair of friends for Golden Gateway. No Wall on the Waterfront.

Merle Goldstone – resident of North Beach. No on 8 Washington.

Bill Benkavitch – Friends of Golden Gateway. Vote no on the height increase referendum.

MacKenzie Ott - as above.

Janet Lautenberger – No wall.

Suzanne Ruecker – Against 8 Washington.

Paul Webber – President of North Beach and Telegraph Hill Dwellers. Against 8 Washington.

Eric Nath – A resident that has been dealing with this issue for a very long time. Vote no now. The issues are not going to change. This has been a bad project from the beginning.

Dale Riehart – A resident of South Park. Against 8 Washington project.

Sue Bushwell – A resident of South Beach. Against 8 Washington project.

Charles Dutkin – Against 8 Washington project.

Carrell McCarthy – Friends of Golden Gateway. Against 8 Washington.

Susan Englander – Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club – re: drone use. Pass this resolution.

Tim Colen – Executive Director for SF Housing Action Coalition. Urges to continue 8 Washington vote to August.

Rick Hauptman – North Mission Neighbors – No on the Wall.

Susan Pfeifer – OFA; Westside Democratic Club. Congratulations to Hene Kelly as newly elected Director of California Democratic Party's Region 6. Also congratulations to Zoe Dunning for her election as 1st Vice President of the Veterans Caucus and Co-Vice Chair of the LGBT caucus.

David Allen – Grey Panthers; Milk Club. Supports drone resolution.

Si Xian Pan – Continue the vote of 8 Washington until the August meeting. The project is result of good planning.

Yongjie Wen – as above. The project improves the neighborhood.

Amy Hong – as above. 8 Washington will generate \$11 million for the affordable housing fund.

Jian Mei Zhu – as above. 8 Washington Project will provide more open space for us.

Michael Guadamuz – SFSU College Democrats. Have submitted our chartering information. Please approve it.

Olga Miranda – Secretary-Treasurer of the SF Labor Council and President of the SEIU Janitors local 87. Please support 8 Washington. This supports jobs. We need to be able to provide for our families.

Charles Marsteller – Doing these projects on a piecemeal basis is a bad idea. Support this referendum.

Ray Lara – in Spanish and English. SEIU Local 87. Supports 8 Washington Project. Continue this to August.

Public comment closed at 7:53 pm.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Hene Kelly asked that a resolution she circulated about drones be added to agenda. No objections were heard; it will be item 7.

M/S/C (Rosenthal/Kelly)

Agenda approved by acclamation.

Arlo Hale Smith made a point of order. In looking at the Policies and Procedures, on page 9, he believes Item 6 cannot be considered this evening. Issues Committee must meet. Both sides must be heard. Initiatives are then acted upon by a vote of the DCCC. This would be in violation of the policies and procedures manual – which needs suspension at a two-thirds vote in order to hear this matter.

David Chiu replied this item was properly noticed. The Issues Committee could have met tonight if it had wanted to. People came here to debate the merits of this project.

Mary Jung asked for comments from the members. Further discussion and cross talk ensued.

Carole Migden stated it should be ruled in or out of order and requested that we move on.

Jung stated that based on parliamentarian's point of order and comments from members, it is still clear that continuing to hear Item 6 today will violate DCCC's own policies and procedures. She ruled that the item is off the agenda and will be continued to the regular endorsement meeting in August and stated that the Issues Committee will meet regarding the project.

Kelly challenged the ruling of the chair. DeJesus seconded this.

Smith stated the proper act is to appeal the ruling of the chair.

Further discussion and cross talk ensued.

Tom Hsieh made a point of order and asked the members to please look to the chair for making remarks and not shout across the room.

Midgen exclaimed a motion was made to overrule the chair.

Jung acknowledged member Kelly to speak on this matter.

Kelly explained the reason she challenged the chair is because she agreed with Chiu that this was noticed. There could have been a meeting of the Issues Committee and that could have happened at 6:15 p.m. She stated that she hoped that 2/3rds of the members would vote to overrule the chair.

DeJesus stated there could have been a meeting tonight and that the members should go forward on this vote. She accused the chair of not being fair to the community.

Scott Wiener stated the DCCC has an endorsement process for a reason and it is laid out in the rules. We did not invite the project sponsor to come in to talk about the project and there was no question and answer period. This early endorsement was highly unusual.

Roll call vote was taken.

Members who voted in favor of the chair's ruling ("no" vote) (15): Malia Cohen, Bevan Dufty, Zoe Dunning, Leslie Katz, Carole Migden, Scott Wiener, Kat Anderson, Bill Fazio, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Meagan Levitan, Arlo Hale Smith, Dianne Feinstein, Kamala Harris, Phil Ting

Members voting in favor of overruling the chair's decision ("yes" vote) (13): John Avalos, David Campos, David Chiu, Petra DeJesus, Matt Dorsey, Rafael Mandelman, Leah Pimentel, Alix Rosenthal, Kelly Dwyer, Hene Kelly, Mark Leno, Leland Yee, Tom Ammiano

Congresswoman Jackie Speier's proxy abstained from voting.

Jung announced the vote, and at the suggestion of Rosenthal, explained to the members of the audience what the vote meant – that since Item 6 did not follow the DCCC's policies and procedures, it will not be discussed and voted on tonight and instead will be calendared for the August agenda.

Kelly asked that Item 6 be put on the May agenda. Jung replied that this can be discussed under New Business.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

M/S/C (Kamala Harris proxy (Matthew Rothschild)/Rosenthal)

Minutes approved by acclamation.

5. Reports

- a) **Chair** (Mary Jung) – Jung provided a report from the California Democratic Convention and congratulated Zoe Dunning and Hene Kelly for their elections. Jung explained that Kelly's new position opens her executive board seat and a delegate seat. She asked that those who are interested in either seat, or know of others who are, to let her know and she will discuss this with the Executive Board and also confer with Kelly.
- b) **Voter Registration** (Trevor McNeil) – In McNeil's absence, Executive Director will give the report with her report.
- c) **Club Chartering** (Leah Pimentel) – Leah Pimentel was not present at this time.
- d) **Communications** (Matt Dorsey) – Dorsey stated the DCCC will consider some amendments to the bylaws and will focus next on the policies and procedures manual. He asked that members contact him if they have any questions or suggestions.
- e) **Finance** (Zoe Dunning) – Dunning announced that former DCCC Chair Jane Morrison has graciously agreed to hold an event in her home this summer to raise money to fund the Sue Bierman Internship Program.
- f) **Treasurer** (Tom Hsieh) – Hsieh circulated the financial reports from the accountants and announced the DCCC has about \$91,000 cash on hand for operating expenses.
- g) **Executive Director** (Ally Medina) – Medina announced we moved offices to 645 Harrison and thanked Kim-Shree Maufas for being a huge help. The CDP's bounty program started again, and DCCC is continuing with voter registration. DCCC received 99 emails, nine phone calls, and one letter about Item 6. She printed out the emails and they are available.

Migden interrupted Medina's report and asked for a clarification. When she was recognized, she stated she was confused about the earlier vote on the ruling of the chair, explaining she thought the committee was voting on the drone resolution, and wished to change her vote. Even though several members thought Migden was acting out of order, she was allowed, changing the final count to 14-14. The ruling of the chair stands. 8:17 pm.

6. Endorsement: 8 Washington (removed from agenda – see Item 3)

7. Drone resolution: Presented by Kelly.

M/S Kelly/Mandelman.

Smith stated he will vote no on this because it threatens our national security.

Dunning stated she will also vote no on this resolution as currently written. As the only veteran here, she wants to share that she does not agree with some of the statistics in the resolution.

Dorsey thanked Dunning for her thoughts, but he will still vote yes on this.

Chiu has significant issues re: our policies around drones and also has concerns that are shared with member Dunning. He asked if there was a way to amend this to the satisfaction of all?

Mandelman opined DCCC should be sensitive to the religious backgrounds of others. Spending money on drones does not make sense.

Campos stated there is a process that should have been pursued before we used drones.

Fazio stated that improvements can be made to this resolution. It was added late and if he is not certain about something, he is not going to support it.

Kelly stated she would like to move to withdraw this resolution and send it to committee. She would like to amend this to augment support. She believes the President wants something like this and asked for volunteers to be on the committee.

Dunning volunteered to be on the committee.

M/S/C (Kelly/Chiu) Approved to withdraw resolution and send to committee.

Speier, Feinstein, Ting abstained.

During this discussion, Migden asked for a review of the vote on Item 6 and sought the house number. Many members suggested to Migden that she was out of order for various reasons. Chair Jung provided her with the tally sheet for the vote.

8. Bylaws Reforms:

- a) Allowing participation by immigrants. M/S/C (Chiu/Dorsey). After some discussion, a roll call was requested. Campos expressed his disappointment to Congresswoman Speier through her proxy Brian Perkins. While Campos has great respect for Speier, he thought Speier should be voting in favor of this by-law reform and her vote sends a negative message to immigrants that are trying to live the dream. This by-law change was approved, with Fazio and Feinstein abstaining. Speier voted no. Avalos, Mar, McNeil and Pelosi were absent.
- b) Noticing for agendas – M/S (Dorsey/Harris proxy (Rothschild)) Harris proxy (Rothschild) moved to hold it over to a future meeting. There was general agreement that general noticing for meetings should not be changed from 10 days to 3 days and this should remain as is. Regarding the second part of noticing, requesting that emergency resolutions be provided at least 96 hours in advance, there was general agreement this made sense, but it would also be held over to a future meeting.

- c) Audio recording of meetings – Dorsey moved to put it over to a future meeting. He announced he had someone videotaping this meeting as an experiment and said he would send it out to all members to review.

Several members confirmed that this body is not required to abide by the Brown Act. Wiener thanked Dorsey for the extra work he has done because of all the Supervisors serving on the DCCC. He stated he was not convinced we should move away from the 10 days notice.

Dorsey expressed concern that 72 hours' notice does not maximize transparency.

9. New Business

Yee proxy (Rizzo) proposed to put the 8 Washington item on the agenda for next month and that the appropriate committee do the review.

M/S/C (Yee proxy (Rizzo)/DeJesus)

Pimentel announced that the SFSU College Democrats turned in all their forms and wished to be chartered tonight.

Jung thanked them for helping to move the DCCC office.

M/S/C (Pimental/Jung)

Passed by acclamation to grant charter to SFSU College Democrats.

Pimentel also noted that the DCCC is no longer asking for \$25 checks from clubs when they submit their chartering packages; and she thanked the DCCC and Ally Hergenraeder for the extra office supplies given to the schools.

Proxy George Broder asked the President of the Club if they supported only endorsing Democrats in nonpartisan races. The President of the Club affirmed they did.

Mandelman asked how the tape was going to be distributed. Dorsey replied he would provide a link to it to all the members and suggested he might post it on YouTube.

Rosenthal invited all to a fundraiser for Katy Tang for Supervisor, District 4 on April 30.

10. Adjournment:

M/S/C (Harris proxy (Rothschild)/Anderson)

Adjourned at 8:52 pm.

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

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