

# San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California  
Milton Marks Auditorium  
Wednesday, January 22, 2014  
7:00 p.m.

## Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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### 1. **Roll Call** 7:03 pm

Chair: Mary Jung. Members: Kat Anderson, John Avalos (left 8:30), David Chiu (arrived 7:34), Malia Cohen, Matt Dorsey, Bevan Dufty (arrived 7:14), Zoe Dunning, Kelly Dwyer, Bill Fazio (Hsieh served as his proxy), Tom Hsieh, Leslie Katz (arrived 7:23), Hene Kelly, Meagan Levitan (arrived 7:39), Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar (left 7:44), Trevor McNeil, Leah Pimentel, Alix Rosenthal, Arlo Hale Smith and Scott Wiener. Ex-Officio Members: U.S. Senator (Dianne Feinstein (proxy Jeff Mori), U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier (proxy Brian Perkins), Attorney General Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild); State Senator Leland Yee (proxy John Rizzo - arrived 7:23); State Senator Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka); Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (proxy Kim-Shree Maufas); Assemblymember Phil Ting (proxy Jason Wong – arrived 7:07)

Absent excused: Carole Migden

Absent: David Campos, Petra DeJesus. Ex-Officio Members: U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

Late Proxies: Scott Wiener gave his proxy to Adam Taylor at 7:57 pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

## **2. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

M/S/C to approve agenda.

## **3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

M/S/C to approve minutes.

## **4. Public Comment**

Naeemah Charles – President of SFSU College Democrats and USF College Democrats are jointly holding a fundraiser to enable students to attend the Democratic convention in Los Angeles. Details: February 15, from 2-4 pm right before the Chinese New Year's parade. She will send an email to all of us with more details.

Alyce Brown – Reported the Commission on Access Appeals will discuss disability placards. The DMV has to update their records.

Jain Thapa – Asian Pacific Islander Democratic Caucus - seeks a 'no' vote on item 9.

Jim Wachob – FDR Democratic club – Supports the parking resolution.

Susan Pfeifer – FDR Democratic club – Supports the parking resolution.

SFMTA tried an end-run around the SF Board of Supervisors.

Margaret O'Sullivan – Irish American Democratic Club and Sunset Community Democratic Club – urges 'no' vote on item 9. This is counter-intuitive to the Democratic Party principles.

Patrick Valentino – Lawyer and South Beach Democratic Club – on item number 9. This is troubling, prohibitive and smothering. Would prohibit good people from serving on the committee. Maybe just focus on clear conflicts of interest that are financial.

Mark Murphy – Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club – re: item 9. Urges a "no" vote. Re: Malia Cohen's resolution about protecting our children – it will save lives.

Annie Thatcher-Stephens – FDR Democratic Club – re: disability parking.

Places an unnecessary burden on those with disabilities and seniors. Look at regulation of permits. Frowns on doing the end-run around the BOS.

Dave Massen – Citizens Climate Lobby – resolution in support of federal carbon tax (to be considered next month). Democrats in Congress support this idea. Four SF Democratic Clubs have signed on.

Susan Pfeifer – Democratic Party – gave Covered California update.

Alec Bash - proponent of national elections – hopes item 9 is not some internal smear machine or a solution in search of a problem.

Vera Haile – re: the disability placard resolution. She was not happy about the recommendations, such as having placard holders pay meter rates. This will mean people will stay home because they cannot afford the rates.

Vince Courtney – Laborers’ International Union – the laborers are fully in support of the FDR Democratic Club. Regarding item 9 – we are not happy with the proposal because we consider that it is bad for labor – to recuse all union members across the city from participating in this way. No evidence that there has been any malfeasance. We expect you to work together. You have to involve labor in your decision-making.

Michael Nulty – president Central City Democratic Club – re: disability-parking issue. We would like to co-sponsor this with the FDR club.

Arjan Amiri – re: disability parking – no one should have any additional rights that makes them better than other working members of society. We should charge these individuals for the parking. It is only fair that everyone pay for parking.

Brian Webster – Invited us to Labor Community awards Feb 28 at the Marriott; spoke against item 9 – infringes on the Chinese community’s participation in the Democratic Party.

Tony Fazio – worked on the slate card. There was never any impropriety attached to that slate card. To exclude the chair and the treasurer from the organization around the card makes no sense. That law needs to be looked at by an attorney.

Tomasita Medal – re: disability placards. Asks people to be empathetic about people with disabilities.

Public Comment closed 7:42 pm

## 5. Reports

DCCC member reports, including discussion and possible action, to offer updates on work assignments and discuss ongoing objectives.

a) **Chair** (Mary Jung). Report on DCCC activities, including the California Democratic State Convention on March 7-9, 2014 in Los Angeles. Would like to see as many of our members there as possible. Asked members who are not attending to turn in proxies soon and pay fees early to avoid late charges.

b) **Issues** (Alix Rosenthal). Report out from the Issues Committee meeting on resolutions before the SFDCCC. Voted unanimously to recommend the

resolution on disability placards. Not able to move on member Cohen's resolution because she did not attend the issues committee meeting.

- c) **Voter Registration** (Trevor McNeil). Report on voter registration efforts.
- d) **Club Chartering** (Leah Pimentel). Report on club-related activities, and update from the Presidents' Cabinet meeting. Working to streamline endorsement process. Brownie Mary and Willie B. Kennedy Democratic Clubs have requested charters.

M/S/C (Pimentel/Leslie Katz) to approve charters. Passed unanimously.

- e) **Communications** (Matt Dorsey). Report on memos from California Democratic Party regarding DCCC membership elections and updates to county committee bylaws to comport with changes to state law. This body is ahead of the curve on this. Information is posted.
- f) **Finance** (Zoe Dunning). Report on progress toward strategic goals and fundraising activities. Thanks to everyone who sponsored and attended the Jane Morrison event to benefit Sue Bierman Internship Program. Raised \$12,500. The big breakfast is April 11 with Congresswoman Jackie Speier. We already have \$25,000 in sponsorships. Nick Josefowitz has bought a table already. We did a strategic planning event a year ago. Review of some of those objectives. We are meeting our fundraising goals. Still need to work on recurring on-line giving. Voter registration and education goals are going well. Clubs – have not yet set up DCCC members as liaisons to the clubs. We are achieving a lot of our goals.
- g) **Treasurer** (Tom Hsieh). Report on the current budget and finances of the party. We had a very good year in 2013. Our federal account holds over \$79,000. Net income was over \$101,000. We had some professional fees because of the slate card. Have over \$65,000 cash on hand in both federal and state accounts.
- h) **Executive Director** (Ally Medina). Update on DCCC activities, including the Sue Bierman Memorial Internship Program. We are coordinating with the College Democrats who have been helping with phone-banking and voter registration. Please help send students to the Democratic Convention and participate in the February 15 fundraiser.

6. **CDP Region 6 Update** (Hene Kelly). Report on activities of the California Democratic Party from Director of Region 6. There is a pre-endorsement meeting on February 8 at 11:30 am in Burlingame. This is the one chance for clubs to have votes. If you cannot get to the meeting, you can ask to have a ballot sent to you and it can be sent to Kelly in various ways. She will even come get it. Details at [cadem.org](http://cadem.org). You can have a mail ballot but you cannot have a proxy. If there is a contest, the winner has to get 70%. If that does not happen, it goes to convention. At convention, you cannot have a mail ballot, but you can have a proxy. 60% is the threshold at convention.
7. **Resolution: Crimes Against Children** (Cohen, Katz, Dunning, Pimentel, Dwyer, Kelly, Ammiano)

Proposed resolution supporting the expansion of existing state law, which currently applies to children under the age of 14, to children under the age of 18, for purposes of requiring witnesses to report certain violent and sexual crimes against children to peace officers; and assuring the protection of all children under the age of 18 from such crimes. Brought to her by the African American caucus.

Katz said this was discussed at the CADEMs Resolutions Committee and they discussed that 14 years old was random and under 18 made more sense.

Brian Perkins (Speier) spoke about how critical support of this is.

Kelly commented that teachers must report this. If you have any inkling that a child has been abused in any way, report it.

Rafael Mandelman has two concerns about this: 1) generally we don't impose obligations on everyone to report crimes and 2) lewd and lascivious acts perpetrated by a 19 year old against a 17 year old – I'm not sure what that would look like.

Kim-Shree Maufas spoke about circumstances that make it clear that certain activity should be questioned. Don't just walk away.

Arlo Hale Smith commented that police don't have resources for witness protection.

McNeil commented that there are exceptions that allow space not to report.

M/S/C (Cohen/Katz). Passed unanimously except for abstentions from U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, Smith, State Senator Mark Leno, and Assemblymember Phil Ting

8. **Resolution: Protecting Parking Access for People with Disabilities** (Kelly, Dorsey, Mandelman, FDR Democratic Club) Proposed resolution opposing the City and County of San Francisco's efforts to amend state law to impose time limits and begin charging disability parking placard holders to park; and supporting collaborative efforts by local jurisdictions to combat fraud and misuse in the disability parking placards.

Rizzo asked if the City is looking for exemptions from State law for itself. Kelly and Katz confirmed yes.

Jung reminded the audience that chartered club presidents are allowed to speak during this time.

Jonathan Lyens commented that this effort by SFMTA would affect the entire State of California. This is not about an exemption. The SFMTA board is doing this in the absence of public comment.

David Chiu commented that we have recognized that there have been some abuses. SFMTA did not do a good job of figuring out how those with limited means can make this work.

Cohen asked how do we sort this all out when, for example, the MTA is not here and we cannot hear that perspective.

Rosenthal commented that the Issues Committee was not well represented. Only 5 of us, but it was vigorously discussed. MTA was not there.

Hsieh commented that there are parliamentary procedures that allow us to delay a vote if we don't think we have all the facts.

Lyens commented that this situation has been going on for 10 months. The MTA has gone around the Bay Area and held multiple presentations and did not invite the other viewpoint.

Katz called the question.

M/S/C (Kelly/Rosenthal) Passed unanimously except for abstentions from U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, Smith, State Senator Mark Leno, and Assemblymember Phil Ting

Alicia Wang was in attendance and was recognized for her work and leadership in the California Democratic Party.

9. **Revision to the Policies and Procedures Manual: Slate Card Conflicts of Interest** (Kelly) Proposed revision to the S.F. Democratic Party's Policy and Procedure Manual prohibiting members of the SFDCCC with certain financial conflicts of interest from serving on the Slate Card/Bidding Subcommittee, or voting to award certain SFDCCC contracts.

Kelly stated she seeks to open a conversation about transparency in our process. In no way do I want to "quiet" Asian Americans or take the vote away from them. I am not addressing this to anybody. This was addressed to transparency. I want people to know if I am supporting somebody other than what is on the slate card. That does not throw me off the slate card committee.

I am open to discussing this today or sending it back to committee. The last election's slate card was beautiful and "we won." I volunteered on this committee. I am not attacking anybody and I hope they are not attacking me.

I move that this be referred to the bylaws committee.

Matthew Rothschild (Harris) – a former chair of the DCCC and served on the slate card committee. When we saw this on the agenda, I thought this was inappropriate. The appropriate thing to do was to first say thank you. We had a public vote on recommendations before the slate card committee was working. There was transparency. The slate card was successful. We encourage people to be involved on campaigns, even if we disagree with them. We have all had positions different than what the DCCC officially recommended. I think this is a ruse. There should be no suggestion whatsoever that anything other than proper conduct occurred. We should vote "no" on this. I am against sending this to committee tonight.

Dunning – When I see a resolution, I ask, “what is the problem we are trying to solve,” and I did not see a problem. I am reminded of voter suppression. This is not about disclosure; it is about prohibition. It is about banning people. I support an up and down vote.

Maufas – if we have an up and down vote and it does not pass, can it be brought again? Jung responded – yes, at another meeting.

Rosenthal – Thanks Kelly for bringing this up. There is a section on conflicts of interest that would prevent most of us from participating. This bothered me during the last District Attorney race when I supported Sharmin Bock. We are an active group. I want this to go back to committee to address this.

Dorsey – Associates with Rosenthal’s remarks. He had his own questions when he was working for Dennis Herrera and Herrera was running – on whether or not to endorse. There are things we can spell out and address without prohibiting anyone.

Mandelman – I am incredibly fond of our chair, our treasurer and Tony Fazio. It is a good thing that we have a Chinese-American chair and treasurer. I have reviewed this resolution and although it needs work, it is patently fair.

Katz – There is a theme here that disclosure is valuable. This does not get to that. Timing is an issue here. When we put together a bidding committee, we cannot know what people are going to do. I recommend this be voted down. It targets valuable members. I assume all serve with the best interests of the Party. Rosenthal brings up a different section.

Smith – moves the previous question. Jung stated that the motion was not seconded and could not be voted on.

M/S/C (Rothschild/Katz) Move to oppose this resolution. Vote ‘yes’ to defeat the revision. The revision was defeated with a vote of 19 yes votes to 5 no votes. The revision was defeated.

Votes as follows: Yes (19): Anderson, Chiu, Cohen, Dufty, Dunning, Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, Katz, Levitan, McNeil, Pimentel, Smith, Wiener, Feinstein, Speier, Harris, Yee, and Ting.

No (5): Dorsey, Dwyer, Kelly, Mandelman, Ammiano.

Abstain (2): Rosenthal, Leno.

Left before vote: Avalos, Mar.

Dorsey asked that the item go to the By-laws Committee and be brought back before the DCCC at a later date. The Chair agreed to this.

**10. New Business**

None.

**11. Adjournment**

M/S/C (Ting/Dunning) Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Kat Anderson, recording secretary*