

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee
Minutes of SFDCCC General Meeting
Wednesday, March 17, 2010 – 6:00 PM
Local 2, 209 Golden Gate Avenue

The meeting was called to order by Chair Peskin at 6:12 p.m.

Chairman Aaron Peskin explained the meeting was moved up a week to accommodate time for arguments in the Voter Guide.

1. Roll Call

In attendance: Bornstein, Campos (arrived after roll call), Chiu, Daly, Goldstein, Haaland (arrived after roll call), Hsieh, Jung, Katz (arrived after roll call), Kelly, Mandelman (arrived after roll call), Mar, McGoldrick, Morrison, O'Connor, Peskin, Smith, Spanjian (arrived after roll call), Walker, Wiener, Feinstein (proxy Joe Liverone), Leno (proxy Reese Isbell)

Excused: Julian (proxy Peskin), Levitan, Nutter (proxy Kelly), Tuchow (proxy Jung), Logo (proxy Crowley)

Absent: Pelosi, Speier, Yee, Ma, Ammiano

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended to add a “No on 17” resolution and endorsement of the California for Democracy Act resolution to Item 8.

3. Approval of January 27, 2010 minutes

Michael Goldstein noted that he should have been listed as “present,” instead of “absent.”

Moved by Arlo Hale Smith, seconded by Hene Kelly, to approve the minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous.

Laura Spanjian arrived at 6:15 p.m.

4. Public Comment

Richard Hansen, explained the /California for Democracy Act and asked the DCCC to support this and the signature drive. This is also known as the “Lakoff Amendment” and they are actively seeking signature gatherers.

Rafael Mandelman arrived at 6:17 p.m.

5. Endorsements of local propositions

A. School Facilities Special Tax District Measure

Myong Lee, an employee of the SF Unified School District, spoke in favor of Proposition A, the School Facilities Special Tax. He explained this is basically a renewal of an existing tax that is about to expire. It was first enacted in 1990 and is about to sunset.

Supervisor Chris Daly asked whether putting this measure on the June ballot hurt the school parcel tax anticipated for the November ballot. Lee replied this is a very small amount and needs to be voted on now. Hene Kelly asked if there was any opposition to this. Lee replied 'no.' Arlo Hale Smith asked if this required a simple majority vote since it is a seismic/safety issue. Lee replied this measure requires a 2/3 vote.

Tom Hsieh asked if this was authorized by the School Board and the SFUSD Administration. Lee replied in the affirmative. Hsieh asked how this would affect the November parcel tax. Lee replied he thought the parcel tax would be ok and that this might have a positive impact on it. Peskin asked how this affects Proposition B on this June's ballot. Lee said he didn't know. David Chiu asked Lee to relay to the SFUSD and the Board of Eeducation that in the future, they coordinate their funding requests better. Lee agreed to pass on this message.

Robert Haaland arrived at 6:29 p.m.

Peskin stated he wanted to send a message to the School District about his unhappiness with their lack of coordination on funding measures and how they rolled out to the public and said he would be voting against this measure at the DCCC. Kelly added that she agreed with Peskin on how important communication is.

A vote was taken on Proposition A with the following results: (aye 23, nay 1)

Aye: Bornstein, Chiu, Daly, Goldstein, Haaland, Hsieh, Julian, Jung, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, McGoldrick, Morrison, Nutter, O'Connor, Smith, Spanjian, Tuchow, Walker, Wiener, Feinstein, Leno, Longo.

Nay: Peskin

B. Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond

Joanne Hayes White spoke in favor of Proposition B, a bond for \$412 million. Smith asked if the Hall of Justice was seismically unsafe. Hayes White answered in the affirmative. Walker stated she thought the bond was for a larger amount of money. Hayes White replied it was originally supposed to be for \$200 million more and would have included work in a crime lab and medical examiners office.

Leslie Katz arrived at 6:41 p.m.

Daly stated he was against Proposition B and that it had the wrong priorities. Connie O'Connor opined she agreed with Daly and asked if there were any plans to fix the jails. Hayes White said she agreed that this measure didn't address all the issues. David Chiu stated that even as a lead sponsor of the measure, he agreed with Daly's remarks. Chiu stated it would cost \$1 billion to fix the Hall of Justice and through their Capital Planning Process, decided to address the problem in bite-sized measures. He stated it was a judgment call.

Haaland remarked that he agreed with prioritizing the Hall of Justice replacement and recalled the time he and Ted Gullickson spent there 12 years ago. Smith added that fire safety is paramount and recalled the 1989 earthquake and subsequent fires, and how the water system wasn't able to provide the resources needed to fight the fires in the Marina.

Haaland left the meeting.

A vote was taken on Proposition B with the following results: (aye 21, nay 2, abstain 1)

Aye: Bornstein, Chiu, Hsieh, Julian, Jung, Katz, Mandelman, Mar, McGoldrick, Morrison, Nutter, O'Connor, Peskin, Smith, Spanjian, Tuchow, Walker, Wiener, Feinstein, Leno, Longo.

Nay: Daly, Kelly

Abstain: Goldstein

Chiu was excused from the meeting at 6:55 p.m. and tendered his proxy to McGoldrick.

C. Film Commission Charter Amendment

Bill Barnes spoke on behalf of Proposition C, explaining it set qualifications for the commissioners, split the appointments between the Mayor and Board of Supervisors (the Board), streamlined some of the processes, and would not add any additional costs to City government.

Haaland returned to the meeting.

Goldstein asked how this affected the street closing process. Barnes replied the process remains the same. Hsieh asked if all the confirmations needed to be approved by the Board. Barnes replied in the affirmative.

Wiener stated that this was another measure put forward with the intent of taking away another commission from Mayoral oversight. He said this doesn't provide enough to attract filmmakers and it is unclear if this measure would improve the film situation in the City. Barnes responded that the set qualifications will help attract film people. Wiener replied that the Mayor has no veto power over Board appointees, yet the Board has veto power over the Mayor's appointees. He did not think putting something like this in the Charter is good policy.

Smith asked what the Mayor's position was and if Barnes knew what the film industry thinks. Barnes said he couldn't speak for the Mayor, but said that Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier, the main sponsor of the measure, has been working with the film industry and trying to add consistency to the process. Hsieh stated he thought this measure would attract people with NIMBYism to the commission appointments. Peskin responded that more geographic diversity among the commissioners will lead to less NIMBYism.

Rafael Mandelman stated he didn't agree with the divine right of mayor's to appoint commissioners and thought split authorities function better.

A vote was taken on Proposition C with the following results: (aye 19, nay 2, no endorsement 2, abstain 2)

Aye: Bornstein, Chiu, Daly, Goldstein, Haaland, Julian, Katz, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, McGoldrick, Morrison, Nutter, O'Connor, Peskin, Smith, Spanjian, Walker, Leno.

Nay: Wiener, Longo

No Endorsement: Hsieh, Jung

Abstain: Tuchow, Feinstein

D. Retirement Benefit Costs Charter Amendment

Eric Mar spoke in favor of this Charter Amendment explaining why it was needed for the financial health of the City. Haaland thanked Mar for his hard work. Goldstein stated he saw little choice in how to vote – given the current budget situation. Daly said he was originally an opponent to this measure, but now was ready to vote 'no endorsement.'

A vote was taken on Proposition D with the following results: (aye 24, no endorsement 1)

Aye: Bornstein, Chiu, Goldstein, Haaland, Hsieh, Julian, Jung, Katz, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, McGoldrick, Morrison, Nutter, O'Connor, Peskin, Smith, Spanjian, Tuchow, Walker, Wiener, Feinstein, Leno, Longo.

No endorsement: Daly

E. Budget Line Item for Police Department Security for City Officials and Dignitaries Ordinance

Ross Mirkarimi spoke on behalf of Proposition E. Peskin welcomed him to the Democratic Party, noting he had just changed his voter registration from Green Party to Democrat. McGoldrick made a joke about "not being green today", despite the fact that it is St. Patrick's Day.

Mirkarimi provided background on the formation of the ordinance and stated he found it worrisome that there is \$2.1 million for dignitary protection, but no details or tracking for it. He said this ordinance makes the City consistent with federal and state practices, although there is some variation from municipality to municipality.

Smith asked if it was possible to subpoena the information. Mirkarimi replied that it doesn't exist. Hsieh asked for a copy of the ordinance. Mirkarimi supplied it. Hsieh asked if this was a transparency question. Spanjian said this measure has garnered a lot of press and thought such a small issue would have been worked out and asked why it was even on the ballot.

A vote was taken on Proposition e with the following results: (aye 16, nay 7, abstain 2)

Aye: Bornstein, Chiu, Daly, Goldstein, Haaland, Julian, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, McGoldrick, Morrison, Nutter, O'Connor, Peskin, Walker, Leno.

Nay: Hsieh, Jung, Smith, Tuchow, Wiener, Feinstein, Longo

Abstain: Katz, Spanjian

F. Renters' Financial Hardship Applications

Chris Daly spoke on behalf of Proposition F.

McGoldrick asked if there was a COLA involved and Hsieh asked what the allowable annual increase was. Peskin replied 1.2%. Hsieh asked how this affects small property owners. Daly stated this measure closes a loophole that would protect tenants. Smith asked hypothetically that if he qualified, could he challenge the 1.2%. Katz asked if there was a limit on building size. Daly replied there were no limits. Katz asked for a definition of an attendant in the household. Daly said that all the assets of those in the household would be taken into account. Katz asked if this could be retroactive. Daly said it could be 60 days retroactive to the application and decisions would be made by an Administrative Law Judge.

A vote was taken on Proposition F with the following results: (aye 20, nay 5)

Aye: Bornstein, Chiu, Daly, Goldstein, Haaland, Julian, Katz, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, McGoldrick, Morrison, Nutter, O'Connor, Peskin, Smith, Spanjian, Walker, Leno, Longo.

Nay: Hsieh, Jung, Tuchow, Wiener, Feinstein

G. Transbay Transit Center Declaration of Policy

Daly provided information on the importance of the Transbay Transit Center and this declaration of policy.

David Campos arrived at 7:36 p.m.

Jane Morrison stated she has worked very hard on this and urged everyone to vote for this.

Katz left at 7:39 p.m. and returned at 7:41 p.m.

Scott Wiener made a motion that this Declaration of Policy be passed by acclamation. It was seconded by Kelly. The motion passed unanimously.

Peskin stated that with the conclusion of the vote on ballot initiatives, the DCCC would be providing arguments to the voter handbook for any campaigns that asked us to do so.

6. Chair's Report

Peskin saluted Laura Spanjian for her dedication and hard work on behalf of the Democratic Party. Spanjian will be moving to Houston to take the position of Sustainability Director. Spanjian thanked everyone and said she was sad to leave, but said the opportunity was such that it couldn't be passed up. She will be joining her partner of 3.5 years there.

Peskin wished Kelly a belated Happy Birthday, noting her birthday was March 16th.

Peskin noted Jane Morrison would soon be turning 90.

Peskin announced the DCCC's annual Spring Gala would be held on May 6th.

Peskin announced Richard and Shirley Hansen recently registered 112 democratic voters in Oakland.

7. Treasurer's Report/Fundraising

Debra Walker passed out the treasurer's report, noting there was \$12,604 in the federal account and \$32,594 in the state account.

8. Executive Director's report

none

9. New Business

none

10. Resolutions

A. Resolution to Save Public Education (Hsieh), attached

Hsieh reported he put forward this resolution asking everyone to support the Day of Action after asking Dennis Kelly what he and the DCCC could do to support education.

Moved by Leslie Katz, seconded by Debra Walker to pass the resolution by acclamation. The resolution passed.

B. Resolution opposing Proposition 17 (Peskin)

Moved by Debra Walked, seconded by Hene Kelly to pass the resolution by acclamation. The resolution passed.

C. Resolution supporting California Democracy Act

Moved by Debra Walker, seconded by Michael Goldstein to pass the resolution by acclamation. The resolution passed.

Campos asked that his name and “aye” vote be added to the record for Ballot Measures A, B, C, D, E, F and G.

Katz asked that her name and “aye” vote be added to the record for Ballot Measure A.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Connie O’Connor, seconded by Michael Goldstein, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.