

**San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee**  
**450 Golden Gate Avenue**  
**Milton Marks Auditorium**  
**Draft Minutes of March 30, 2011**

1. Roll Call started at 7:15 p.m.

Present: John Avalos, Bill Fazio, Michael Goldstein, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Hene Kelly, Jane Morrison, Melanie Nutter, Aaron Peskin, Alix Rosenthal, Arlo Hale Smith, Debra Walker, Scott Wiener, Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder), Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild), Mark Leno (proxy Julius Turman), Fiona Ma (proxy Bob Twomey), Tom Ammiano (proxy Quentin Mecke)

Absent: Eric Mar, Connie O'Connor, Eric Quezada, Jackie Speier

Excused with Proxy: David Chiu (proxy Alix Rosenthal), Sandra Fewer (proxy John Fewer), Rafael Mandelman (proxy Aaron Peskin), Milton Marks (proxy Hene Kelly)

Excused without Proxy: David Campos, Gabriel Haaland, Carole Migden

Late arrivals: Dan Bernal arrived at 7:34 pm, Larry Yee arrived at 7:54 pm, John Shanley arrived at 8 pm, Leslie Katz arrived at 8 pm.

The Chair, Aaron Peskin, called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Arlo Hale Smith asked that a discussion item be added to the agenda – Moves to abolish DCCC elections. He reminded everyone that he sent out information on this topic prior to the meeting.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Debra Walker, to add this agenda item. It passed without objection and will be heard during Item 8, the Chair's report.

3. Approval of February 23, 2011, minutes

Moved by Melanie Nutter, seconded by Matthew Rothschild, to approve the draft minutes. This passed without objection.

4. Presentation by Mayoral Candidate Phil Ting

Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting started his presentation at 7:21 pm and provided a brief history of his time in the Assessor-Recorders Office, stating that it is possible to turn an office around without letting everyone go. He invited everyone to his next public meeting for Reset San Francisco – Solutions Palooza – on April 16<sup>th</sup> – at Horace Mann Middle School, starting at 11 am. Members follow up with questions. The majority of the questions, from Peskin, Hene Kelly, and Walker, focused on taxation, Proposition 13, and tax reform. Tom Hsieh and George Broder asked questions regarding economic development and the San Francisco 49ers.

Dan Bernal arrived at 7:34 pm.

Peskin remarked on the passing of George Broder's father, Washington Post journalist David Broder and offered condolences.

#### 4A. Presentation by District Attorney Candidate George Gascon

District Attorney George Gascon began his presentation at 7:46 pm, with background information on his family and their Cuban roots.

Larry Yee arrived at 7:52 pm.

Gascon provided a chronology of his education and public safety career including in Meza, AZ, where he was Police Chief before coming to San Francisco for the same position. As a result of his being at odds with the Msza mainstream temperament, he was the target of verbal assaults and threats.

Members asked questions starting at 7:55pm. Kelly asked him how he was a registered Republican for most of his adult life until he was appointed as D.A in January 2011. Gascon explained that most Cuban Americans register as Republicans when they become citizens. He does not feel closely allied with the Republican Party and did not vote the Party line. When he moved to San Francisco, he thought that it would be appropriate, in his position, to be independent (ie, decline-to-state), and refused to continue his registration as a Republican.

Leslie Katz and John Shanley arrived at 8 pm.

Kelly continued with questions regarding his Republican registration. Gascon pointed out that it was important to look at his trajectory and that his stands in Arizona were contradictory to the Republican Party. He noted it is "easy to be pro-immigrant in San Francisco, but not easy to be pro-immigrant in Arizona."

Walker questioned him on his position on Sit-Lie. Gascon responded that there were many complaints from residents and small businesses about aggressive people. He said he studied statutes in Seattle, Santa Cruz, Berkeley, and Portland. He said he didn't think it was humane to keep people living on the streets.

Alix Rosenthal asked a question about how he would deal with Conflict of Interest and professional responsibility. John Avalos asked how prosecuting homicides was doing. Hsieh welcomed Gascon to the Democratic Party, and remarked that things are much better in the Haight now, and asked when there would be more community courts.

Peskin asked about his position on the death penalty. Gascon replied he has reservations about the death penalty, but stated that it is the law in the State of California and he is supposed to prosecute on behalf of the State. He has problems with the inequity of the death penalty as it relates to people of color. He said his office has declined 2 death penalty cases since he got in office. Gascon thought it was better to reform the system, such as the 3 strikes law. Peskin pointed out that Gascon stood up to injustice in Arizona, is against 3-strikes, yet he refuses to rule out the death penalty. Gascon responded he cannot categorically say he would never go with the death penalty. He said he supported Kamala Harris in her race for Attorney General even though the Police (statewide) were against her.

Peskin, on behalf of David Campos, asked for Gascon's position on reporting undocumented youth. Gascon replied that the "law requires that the juvenile probation department must report."

At 8:24 pm, the candidate presentations were officially over.

#### 5. Public Comment

Susan Pfeifer, Organizing for America, said there is a candidate "we can all agree on" – Barack Obama. She will start tabling soon at the Ferry Building and stated she wished to work with Rafael Mandelman on including the clubs in her efforts.

John O'Riordan, President of the Irish American Democratic Club, said that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of John F. Kennedy's presidency is coming up. The club is hosting a fundraising lunch at the Marine's Memorial Building on May 31, 2011. There will be a new award – the JFK Award for Public Service and the inaugural award will be presented to Jane Morrison.

Richard Hanson, Richmond District Democratic Club, reported they will be making a donation in response to the triple tragedy in Japan. He asked if the DCCC would be willing to help do some due diligence as to where the money should go, and if the DCCC would consider also making a donation. Peskin replied he would take the request under advisement.

#### 6. Consideration to adopt Resolution in support of domestic worker rights legislation (Ammiano)

Peskin stated this was approved at the Issues Committee meeting earlier. This was passed without objection. The proxies representing Dianne Feinstein, Nancy Pelosi, Gavin Newsom and Leland Yee abstained from this vote.

#### 7. Discussion/Consideration of Policies and Procedures Manual – slate card committee authorization of campaign materials (Peskin/Katz)

Peskin reported the DCCC was supposed to discuss this matter today, but that Bernal asked that this be given further thought and rewriting until a future meeting.

Bernal stated that while the DCCC should not be attacking Democratic candidates, he also didn't want the DCCC's hands tied, without doing some additional thinking about how the recently passed "Top 2" law will work. He asked for a delay of one month.

Broder stated that Pelosi's thoughts were legitimate and that a one month delay should be ok to address this.

Kelly asked that a date, place, and time of meeting to discuss this be announced and sent out to DCCC members via e-mail.

Moved by Peskin, seconded by Kelly, to not vote today on this matter, to send it back to committee, and that Katz and Peskin will hold a future meeting to be noticed to members.

Matthew Rothschild clarified that this item will be on the agenda in April and that it is not going away. He said the correct motion should be "be continued to the agenda next month." Peskin agreed with this amendment to the motion. It was passed without objection.

## 8. Chair's Report

Peskin reported the Democrats of North County Central Committee sent him a letter, informing him that they passed the same resolution we did in support of the Golden Gate Bridge Toll Takers. He said he was also in receipt of a thank you letter from the Montessori Children's Center regarding our position on the Park Merced development.

### 8A. Discussion regarding moves to abolish DCCC elections

Smith said he brought this up now because he thought members should be aware of what is going on Statewide. Currently, because of the recently passed "Top 2" election law, CCC and Presidential races are the only partisan races with primaries.

Rothschild mentioned that reapportionment comes up every 10 years after the census results are in. Smith said that San Francisco will probably have 1 ½ assembly districts.

## 9. Executive Director's Report

Elizabeth Lowe, DCCC Executive Director, announced the annual Unity Luncheon will be held on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Hotel Intercontinental at 888 Howard Street.

## 10. Treasurer's Report

Rosenthal reported there is \$12,000 in the federal account and \$5,700 in the state account.

Morrison opined that the DCCC should not be paying rent. Lowe remarked that we are renting half the space to someone else. Peskin said he was not aware of this and will look into where those payments are.

Hsieh asked what the professional fees were and if this was a normal charge. Peskin replied it was not. He said the account was transferred from Steve Mele to another firm. The new firm found some issues that needed to be fixed.

Rothschild stated the assembly district lines will change July 2012 and we should know what is going on. He asked the representatives for Assemblymembers Ammiano and Ma to look into this and report back to the DCCC.

Scott Wiener stated he thought we got to draw our own lines. Bob Twomey said there will be two districts, but it was unclear what the breakdown will be. Scott replied the DCCC can make that assessment once the lines are drawn. Peskin said he will add this to the April 27<sup>th</sup> agenda.

## 11. Fundraising Report

There was none.

## 12. Issues Report

There was none.

## 13. New Business

Bernal and Katz announced there will be a meeting on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm, at Peet's Coffee

on Market Street (between Noe & Sanchez) for the purposes of discussing revised language for the Policies and Procedures Manual as it relates to Slate Cards.

John Shanley remarked that at the previous DCCC meeting, Newsom proxy, Warren Hinkle, asked that an item be added to the March agenda regarding changing the percentage of votes needed to garner a DCCC endorsement from the current threshold is 50%+1 to 60%. He expressed their disappointment that the item was not on the agenda and passed out copies of the current version and proposed amended version. Peskin said he would agendaize the matter if so requested by Lt. Governor Newsom.

#### 14. Adjournment

Peskin adjourned the meeting in memory of David Broder, Charles McThatcher, and Peter Nardoza.

It was also announced there would be a public memorial service for Nardoza at City Hall on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 5 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.