

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee
450 Golden Gate Avenue
Milton Marks Auditorium
Draft Minutes of April 27, 2011

1. Roll Call began at 7:11 p.m.

Present: Sandra Fewer, Michael Goldstein, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Leslie Katz, Rafael Mandelman, Carole Migden, Jane Morrison, Connie O'Connor, Aaron Peskin, Alix Rosenthal, Arlo Hale Smith, Debra Walker, Scott Wiener, Dianne Feinstein (proxy Jeff Mori), Jackie Speier (proxy Margo Rosen), Leland Yee (proxy Larry Yee), Fiona Ma (proxy Jason Wong)

Absent: David Campos, David Chiu, Eric Mar, Nancy Pelosi, Gavin Newsom, Kamala Harris, Mark Leno, Tom Ammiano

Excused with Proxy: John Avalos (proxy Connie O'Connor), Gabriel Haaland (proxy Jazzie Collins), Hene Kelly (proxy Sandra Fewer), Milton Marks (proxy Jane Morrison)

Excused without Proxy: Bill Fazio, Melanie Nutter, Eric Quezada

DCCC Chair Aaron Peskin called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Arrived after Roll Call: David Chiu (his proxy to Alix Rosenthal arrived at 7:22 p.m.), Nancy Pelosi (proxy Dan Bernal 7:39 p.m.), Gavin Newsom (proxy John Shanley 7:21 p.m.), Mark Leno (proxy Julius Turman 7:20 p.m.).

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without objection.

Jane Morrison announced there was a memorial scheduled for Carolene Marks for Sunday, May 1st at 2 p.m.

3. Approval of March 30, 2011, minutes

Moved by Tom Hsieh, seconded by Debra Walker, to approve the draft minutes of March 30, 2011. This passed without objection.

4. Presentation by District Attorney Candidate Sharmin Bock

Sharmin Bock stated she is a lifetime Democrat and has lived in San Francisco for 40 years, most recently in the Richmond District with her husband and two children. She attended Georgetown Law School and currently is a prosecutor in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. She has been a prosecutor for 22 years, has tried over 1,000 cases, and has a conviction rate over 90%. She has never lost a serious, violent case. She started several new and innovative programs, including the highly successful HEAT (Human Exploitation and Trafficking) program.

Julius Turman arrived at 7:20 p.m.

She provided information on her experience with "forgotten cases" in the Unsolved Crimes Unit, her management experience, and the office policies she developed.

David Chiu's proxy arrived at 7:22 p.m.

Bock stated San Francisco deserves a seasoned prosecutor - one who can deliver results - and that mistakes cannot be made on peoples lives.

Q & A started at 7:27 p.m. Margo Rosen asked Bock about her stand on the death penalty. Bock replied she is committed to take the most violent people off the street. She said she opposes the death penalty and does not believe it is a deterrent to crime. Would she support a ballot measure to abolish the death penalty? - Yes. Does she believe the law should be changed? - Yes. However, Bock said that as District Attorney, she is bound by the law, but would implement a very similar procedure to former San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris, and set up a Review Committee for death penalty cases.

Carole Migden voiced her support for Bock and praised her work on domestic violence.

Rafael Mandelman asked Bock how she would manage the office due to budget constraints. Bock replied that law enforcement is silo'd and there are too many agencies and not enough communication between them. She would set up a regional resources program funded by the federal government. She recently received a \$300,000 grant to set up a similar program for three agencies in Northern California and is currently developing protocols.

Dan Bernal arrived at 7:39 p.m.

Bock's presentation ended at 7:41 p.m.

Morrison asked if there would be a mayoral candidate at this meeting. Peskin replied he was not able to schedule one.

5. Public Comment

Migden moved that Public Comment be moved to the end of the meeting. There was no second to the motion, so the motion died.

Randy Johnson, MRI Tech from UCSF, asked the DCCC to pass the resolution urging the legislature to reject the appointment of David Crane to the UC Board of Regents. He said Crane is against collective bargaining and that Governor Jerry Brown should be allowed to make this appointment, not the previous governor. He noted it is a 12-year term.

6. Rechartering of FDR Democratic Club (Goldstein)

Michael Goldstein explained the circumstances for the late arrival of rechartering information.

Moved by Goldstein to recharter the FDR Democratic Club, seconded by Walker. There was no discussion and the motion passed without objection.

7. Resolutions

Peskin moved that Public Comment be moved on future agendas to appear after Resolutions.

- 7A. Resolution in support of SB129 providing state employment protection legislation for patients (Mandelman)

Mandelman reported this resolution passed unanimously in the Issues Committee meeting. Turman provided background on the bill. Mary Jung asked if public safety was a consideration in drafting the bill. Turman replied in the affirmative.

Moved by Walker to pass the resolution, seconded by Goldstein. Mary Jung, Dianne Feinstein and Nancy Pelosi abstained.

Leslie Katz moved to amend the resolution on the last paragraph to read: "Be it further resolved that the San Francisco Democratic Party will send this resolution to the California Democratic Party Resolutions Committee and urges the State Legislature...." This was seconded by Walker and passed without objection.

Resolution, as amended, was moved by Walker, seconded by Goldstein. This passed unanimously. Jung, Feinstein, and Pelosi abstained.

- 7B. Resolution urging rejection of Governor Schwarzenegger's appointment of David Crane to the University of California Board of Regents (Mandelman)

Mandelman reported this resolution passed unanimously in the Issues Committee meeting.

Moved by Walker to pass the resolution; seconded by Mandelman. This passed without objection. Hsieh, Jung, Migden, Feinstein, Pelosi and Jackie Speier abstained from the vote.

8. Discussion/Consideration of Policies and Procedures Manual - slate card committee authorization of campaign materials (Katz)

Peskin reported Katz and Bernal met and came up with a new proposal which needs a 2/3 vote for passage.

Katz pointed out that the hand out with the language erroneously has a sentence in the middle that should be deleted: "Group - I cannot remember what we decided regarding the following language:"

Migden opined this language provided no added value and was planning on voting against it.

Mandelman asked how this would work in light of Arlo Hale Smith's example of the Klansmen in Denver. To address this, Katz replied by referring to the line in the first paragraph: "This prohibition is not intended to preclude activities that clarify that a candidate is misleading voters regarding Party affiliation or endorsement, and is also not intended to preclude activities that clarify a SFDCCC endorsement." Katz stated this should lend more civility to campaigns.

Bentrich Satarzadeh, co-chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club (Alice), referring to Mandelman's question, stated this proposal does not disallow the truth.

Hsieh stated this is a simple point - that the Democratic Party's mission is to build the Party in San Francisco. He said that it is very clear that negative campaigns bring down the popularity of the Party. This is the first time in ten years that the SFDCCC waged a negative campaign and that if we continue down this road, our endorsement will no longer be considered the "Gold Standard" endorsement. This is a reasonable policy change and allows for flexibility, allowing the Party to promote candidates effectively and forcefully.

Goldstein stated he thought this issue needed to be addressed, but was confused by how this mixes in with Smith's comments. He asked why there is a rush and thought this should be discussed more with the Top 2 discussion. He stated he was not ready to vote.

Walker stated she appreciated Hsieh's concerns and asked what the definition of "attack democrats" mean? She asked for more information on the statewide rules.

Reese Isbell, co-chair of Alice, said the DCCC has been talking about this for six months, starting with a letter sent by Alice to the DCCC in November 2010. He stated this was not difficult to address and asked why the DCCC kept trying to postpone this simple concept? He reminded everyone that the DCCC agreed with Pelosi's proxy to put off the decision for one month, and the one month is here. Isbell said there was a public meeting held after the March DCCC meeting. It was attended by Matthew Rothschild, Smith, Satarzadeh, Katz, Bernal, and himself. There has been lots of time for discussion and attacking people does not bring people to the Party. He implored the members to pass this language tonight. If more changes are needed, this can be done later.

Walker made a motion to continue the item to the next meeting, seconded by Migden.

Bernal noted that the DCCC voted to put this item on the agenda for this month's meeting. Walker responded that this obligation was met by it appearing on the agenda. Mandelman stated he was ready to vote against it and questioned the delay. Walker said this is serious business and this language ties the DCCC's hands.

Peskin reminded everyone that no DCCC members came to the slate card meeting for the November 2010 election. He was pleased the March meeting was well attended and said he thought the DCCC should just vote on this. He does not support a continuance.

Goldstein remarked that the Party lost numerous democrats because of attacks last year at the state level.

Larry Yee was excused from the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Morrison proposed that a committee review all proposed campaign mail.

John Shanley arrived at 7:21 p.m.

Walker reiterated she thought this item should be continued and should be discussed in conjunction with the new laws.

Rosenthal was excused at 8:15 p.m.

A vote on the continuance was taken with the following results: 13 no, 9 yes, 1 abstain

Yes: Sandra Fewer, Michael Goldstein, Gabriel Haaland, Hene Kelly, Miton Marks, Carole Migden, Jane Morrison, Debra Walker, Gavin Newsom

No: John Avalos, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Leslie Katz, Connie O'Connor, Aaron Peskin, Arlo Hale Smith, Scott Wiener, Dianne Feinstein, Nancy Pelosi, Jackie Speier, Mark Leno, Fiona Ma

Abstain: Rafael Mandelman

The motion to carry this item over to the next meeting failed.

A question was raised whether or not this change required a 2/3 or 50%+1 vote. Hale answered that for a change to the Policies and Procedures Manual, a vote of 50%+1 was needed. Migden said the DCCC should not change the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Moved by Katz to pass the new language for the Policies and Procedures Manual, seconded by Bernal.

A vote was taken with the following results: 15 yes, 8 no

Yes: John Avalos, Sandra Fewer, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Leslie Katz, Connie O'Connor, Aaron Peskin, Arlo Hale Smith, Scott Wiener, Dianne Feinstein, Nancy Pelosi, Jackie Speier, Gavin Newsom, Mark Leno, Fiona Ma

No: Michael Goldstein, Gabriel Haaland, Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman, Milton Marks, Carole Migden, Jane Morrison, Debra Walker

The motion passed and the Policies and Procedures will be amended with the new language regarding negative campaigning.

Migden was excused at 8:31 p.m.

9. Discussion regarding moves to abolish County Committee elections (Smith)
(See Item No. 11A.)

10. Discussion regarding "Top Two" run-off system (Smith)

Smith said this is erroneously called "open primary". He noted that for political party designation, length of time in the party isn't considered for the candidate when designating a party affiliation. There is a question of who will get the ex-officio seats on the DCCC between the Primary and General elections. Is the answer 'none'? And if not, who decides who gets to sit on this? Hsieh asked what the CDP would do - perhaps seat both of them? Smith answered that there is no nominee.

Goldstein asked how this would affect the CDP convention?

Peskin reported he talked to our state elected representatives and asked them to pay attention to this in the Spring and Summer.

11. Reports

• 11A. Chair's report (Peskin)

John Shanley asked why the agenda item requested by his co-proxy, Warren Hinkle, at the March meeting wasn't on the agenda (endorsement change to increase the vote threshold to 60%). Peskin said this should be addressed under Item No. 12. Peskin also said Item No. 9 would be continued to the following month.

• 11B. Executive Director's Report (Lowe)

Lowe reported \$18,500 has been raised for the June 6 Unity Luncheon fundraiser. She also asked that anyone not planning to attend the CDP convention turn in their signed proxies to her so that other they can be redistributed to other democrats who wish to attend. She announced the office is looking for interns.

• 11C. Treasurer's Report (Rosinthal)

Peskin reported there is \$12,000 in the account.

• 11D. Fundraising Report (Nutter)

Peskin reported Melanie Nutter is on vacation and will report at the next meeting.

• 11E. Issues Report (Quezada)

There was no report.

12. New Business

Shanley asked what happened to the by-law change that Hinkle requested at the March meeting. He said he thought this would be on the April agenda.

Peskin replied that he emailed Shanley twice, asking for the proposed language in electronic format and did not receive any answer from them. He said he finally received

a copy from the Recording Secretary after the agenda went out. He asked Shanley to provide documentation that this was a legitimate request from the Lt. Governor and that that this be put in writing. He said it was not unusual for Gavin Newson, when he was Mayor, to disavow staff work.

Scott Wiener responded that it is not appropriate to ask an ex-officio to confirm a request like this and that this has never been done.

Turman asked what the rule was on this.

Mandelman remarked that no ex-officio has ever put in a by-law or Policies and Procedures change.

Turman again asked what rule prohibits this.

Hsieh stated that members choose their proxies carefully to speak in our absence. The proxies must be able to think quickly on their feet and should be respected. It would be unusual to start asking ex-officios to start providing letters of intent.

Bernal was excused at 8:52 p.m.

Walker thought this should be addressed in the Policies and Procedures. Wiener replied this is not appropriate and should be ruled out of order.

Shanley stated the item requested speaks to the paranoia currently residing in the DCCC. He asked - "Are my votes legitimate?" He said he found the request insulting and wondered if all proxies will be asked in the future to provide letters ascertaining that they are speaking on behalf of the ex-officio prior to every meeting. He said the matter is a simple motion to address how the DCCC does business and to help us get behind consensus candidates. Shanley said to Peskin: "My question to you is - are my votes good enough? Are signatures now required? Are any of my past votes legitimate?"

Goldstein stated that "we've been going around and around on this issue for two meetings and it was clear we were going nowhere for the evening. It was getting late and people want to leave so why don't you [Shanley] bring it on and we'll see where the support is".

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.