

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee
Wednesday, July 27, 2011
Minutes

1. Roll Call

Roll Call started at 7:14 p.m.

Present: John Avalos, David Campos, David Chiu, Bill Fazio, Sandra Fewer, Gabriel Haaland, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman, Jane Morrison, Connie O'Connor, Aaron Peskin, Alix Rosenthal, Debra Walker, Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder), Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild), Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka), Fiona Ma (proxy Jason Wong), and Tom Ammiano (proxy Kim Shree-Maufas)

Excused with Proxy: Michael Goldstein (proxy Debra Walker), Eric Mar (proxy Hene Kelly), Milton Marks (proxy Jane Morrison), Carole Migden (proxy Aaron Peskin), Eric Quezada (proxy Wendy Phillips)

Excused without Proxy: Nancy Pelosi, Jackie Speier, Arlo Hale Smith (special circumstances excuse granted after the meeting)

Present, but absent at time of Roll Call: Melanie Nutter (arrived 7:25 p.m.), Leland Yee (arrived 7:52 p.m.), Leslie Katz (arrived 8:04 p.m.), Scott Wiener (arrived 8:48 p.m.)

When Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom's name was called, Mary Jung, Recording Secretary, reported that his proxy had called her and asked to be excused. Aaron Peskin, Chairman of the DCCC, replied this would be discussed after roll call.

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m.

Peskin raised the subject of the Lt. Governor's seat on the DCCC, recounting how State Board of Equalization Member Betty Yee handled resignation of her membership to the SFDCCC when she moved to Alameda County. He stated he became aware of Newsom's move to Marin County from newspaper articles and wrote to him afterwards asking for clarification about where he resided. He continued that he received no response, but that Newsom's proxy, John Shanley stated at the June DCCC meeting that Newsom intended to return to San Francisco. Matthew Rothschild pointed out that Shanley did not use the word "returned".

Peskin stated and made available a deed recorded in the Assessor/Recorders Office indicating Newsom's property was sold July 13, 2011, and that in order to adhere to the by-laws that require State and Federal officials reside in the cities they represent, he is ruling that Newsom is no longer a member of the SFDCCC now that he is a resident of Marin County. He said he did this without prejudice and that Newsom is welcome to come back to the SFDCCC once he does move back to San Francisco.

Rothschild stated he objected to the ruling and challenged it was inappropriate. He recalled when former SFDCCC member Chris Daly moved to Solano County, he was allowed to stay on the Committee. Rothschild made a motion that the Chair be overruled and said this was an abuse of power

by the Chair. Tom Hsieh seconded the motion.

Hene Kelly, Parliamentarian, stated that when the Chair is challenged, he must cede his gavel to the First Vice Chair, Melanie Nutter. Nutter arrived as this matter was under discussion at 7:25 p.m. and took the gavel. Peskin provided Nutter with a summary of the discussion up to the time she arrived at the meeting. Nutter recognized the following speakers: Connie O'Connor, Debra Walker, Rafael Mandelman, and George Broder.

O'Connor started to ask her question when Kelly interrupted to make a point of order – that only Rothschild and Peskin could speak to the issue. O'Connor replied she wanted to know where Newsom lived. Kelly stated that when Rothschild challenged the Chair, it was not debatable and that only the maker of the ruling and the challenger could speak to the issue.

Rothschild stated this was a serious matter for the Chair to unilaterally determine where the Lt. Governor lived. He reminded the Committee that the Chair did not want the Lt. Governor seated, and opined that he couldn't kick him off the SFDCCC just because of the information in a newspaper article. He stated the law allows Newsom to have a seat and as the second highest statewide elected official, he should have a seat on the SFDCCC, and not be removed based on whether or not the Chair likes Newsom.

Peskin quoted from a June 8, 2011, "San Francisco Chronicle" article regarding the Newsom family moving to Ross. He noted the information has not been challenged for its accuracy. Peskin cited the SFDCCC by-laws, subsection 3B, which states that an elected Democrat must "permanently" reside in San Francisco and believes his ruling is accurate and it is up to the Chair to ensure that our members live in our county.

The question was called. It was explained that a 'no' vote upheld the ruling of the Chair, and that a 'yes' vote was against the ruling of the Chair.

The vote was 15 no, 9 yes, and 2 abstain.

No: John Avalos, David Campos, Sandra Fewer, Michael Goldstein, Gabriel Haaland, Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar, Milton Marks, Carole Migden, Jane Morrison, Aaron Peskin, Eric Quezada, Alix Rosenthal, Debra Walker

Yes: David Chiu, Bill Fazio, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Melanie Nutter, Connie O'Connor, Dianne Feinstein, Kamala Harris, Mark Leno

Abstain: Fiona Ma, Tom Ammiano

Before casting their votes; David Chiu, Hsieh, and Nutter, and the proxies for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and State Senator Mark Leno; stated they wanted additional information regarding the Lt. Governor's residence.

Broder asked how the Lt. Governor was going to be informed. Peskin replied he would call him.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without objection.

3. Approval of June 22, 2011, minutes

Mandelman asked for minor corrections.

Moved by Mandelman to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Kelly. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Presentation by Mayoral Candidate David Chiu

Board of Supervisors President David Chiu started speaking at 7:44 p.m., recounting his family's history and how their sacrifices led to his desire to have a career in public service. He provided details of his prior work and community activities, including the Neighborhood Association and Affordable Housing organization. He ran in 2008 for the Board of Supervisors in his desire to get things done. After he won, he ran for President of the Board, and has served as Board President since January 2009.

He recited his Board accomplishments, including the creation of the 2-year budget with 5-year forecasting. He spoke about his stand with Supervisor David Campos in support of immigrants and juveniles and his continued support for allowing immigrants to vote in school board elections. He fought Ellis Act evictions and worked with Nutter, in her position as Director of the City's Department on the Environment, to green San Francisco further through legislation for increased energy audits, controlling unnecessary Yellow Pages distribution, and enhancing urban agriculture programs.

Chiu stated he believed we needed to invest in a 21st Century economy that put people to work and was proud of his work with Supervisor Jane Kim to bring Twitter to mid-Market, and with Supervisor Ross Mirkirimi on Zynga and Yelp.

Lawrence Yee, State Senator Leland Yee's proxy, arrived at 7:52 p.m.

Chiu continued speaking about the thousands of lost jobs and the exodus of families, including half of the African American community, and stated we need to invest in services and schools. All told, the City's \$6.8 billion budget employs 26,000 people, with much duplication. As an example, he stated there are 15 departments that regulate businesses and 14 agencies that have workforce programs. Chiu finished his presentation at 7:54 p.m. and asked for questions.

O'Connor asked if there is gender parity on commissions and commented she thought women were losing ground. Chiu said that women are underrepresented and pledged to have every department head provide diversity information to help analyze and improve the current situation. Gabriel Haaland followed up on his answer with another question (and I couldn't hear what he said).

Kim Shree Maufas, proxy for Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, asked how the Board of Supervisors was getting along with the interim Mayor. Chiu answered that it is a new era, and since Mayor Ed Lee said he would not run for office, the job has not been politicized. Shree Maufas asked how Chiu would become better at working with the current Board. Chiu replied that the Board doesn't agree about 80% of the time and that one of his hallmarks is that he is able to work with all the Board members to find common ground.

Mandelman noted there is a statue of former Congressman Phil Burton at Fort Mason, with the paraphrased quote “that the only way to deal with exploiters is to terrorize the bastards.” Chiu replied that Burton’s book, “Rage for Justice” is one of his favorites. He said he continues to fight, and gave examples such as his legislation against the Yellow Pages and the xenophobia against undocumented parents. He said he could point to votes that were unpopular, but were right. Chiu’s presentation was completed at 8:02 p.m.

4A. Presentation by Mayoral Candidate John Avalos

Board of Supervisors Member John Avalos began his presentation at 8:03 p.m., recounting how he was a Democrat since he was 8 years old, and watched the Democratic convention with his father, a member of the ILWU.

Leslie Katz arrived at 8:04 p.m.

Avalos’ father explained to him what the Democratic Party stood for – that it was the Party for working people and provided education to all as the great equalizer. Avalos stated the City has changed and we need to diversify the economy and recreate government – making government more transparent. He opined that San Francisco is at a crossroads in November 2011 and that it should be neighborhoods first and the work should be for the public good.

Avalos spoke about his start in San Francisco when he arrived in 1989. He said his journey is what San Francisco is about. The middle class are leaving the City and people who can stay are doubling up in housing. Avalos said he has a 9 year old daughter and that his wife is a public school teacher. He stated it is good to have a Mayor that understands about having a family here, and being a homeowner.

Avalos is proud of the local hiring/construction ordinance that he authored. He said change is about what we – as a City – can do for each other. He stated he is independent – that he challenged Aaron Peskin on the budget when Peskin was President of the Board of Supervisors, and he challenged then Mayor Gavin Newsom for more money for safety. He said no one else running for Mayor has had the impact he had – he was the author of the Real Estate Transfer Tax which brought millions of dollars to the General Fund.

Avalos opined that because of Ranked Choice Voting, candidates have a tendency to be bland – they are not willing to talk about issues and they conceal what they really stand for. He said he agreed with Chiu regarding the economy, the budget, and MUNI. He said he respects dialogue and collaboration, but it is sometimes necessary to “crack a few eggs – not p--- off everyone in a room.” He said as Mayor, he would exercise the same temperament he displayed when he was Chair of the Budget Committee. His presentation ended at 8:17 p.m. and he asked for questions.

O’Connor asked about the Recreation and Park initiative he authored for the ballot, which then got pulled. She asked if it was realistic to take revenue away from this Department. Avalos replied that he didn’t think the Mayor’s have given the Department the money they needed. He thought they needed a dedicated funding stream and that it was right to charge fees for the Botanical Gardens. He stated the Real Estate Transfer Tax helped bring needed revenue to the Department. Haaland followed up with a question regarding the loss of public space and asked about companion legislation regarding not

contracting out the work. Avalos replied he supported this.

Walker asked about the hotel tax for internet reservations. Avalos replied he is looking at this with the City Attorney's Office.

Broder asked about making high speed rail a reality. Avalos said he was a big supporter and would do everything he can and he wanted this to be a legacy he could stand on.

Jason Wong, proxy for Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, asked what a diversified economy looked like. Avalos replied that the ports could have more maritime use which would create more jobs and more industry. He said that 3rd Street and North Mission could have great manufacturing. He asked rhetorically how would the City do investment. He replied we could create our own municipal bank. Right now, everyone looks only at big projects. He suggested we focus on small to medium businesses, too. Avalos finished his presentation at 8:25 p.m.

4B. Presentation by Sheriff Candidate Paul Miyamoto

Paul Miyamoto stated he has been a Democrat since he registered to vote at 18 years old. He stated this is the first time in 32 years that this seat is open. He has spent 15 years in the Sheriff's Department, rising through the ranks and sharing the current Sheriff's vision. There has been a lot of innovation coming from San Francisco and these practices are now the industry standard.

At 8:28 p.m., Avalos and Chiu were excused from the meeting.

Miyamoto said he has managed a lot of people while in the Department and is emotionally invested in it. He met his wife on his first day on the job and has five children (of them, one set of triplets). He was born and raised in San Francisco and went to public school. He is raising his family here and is vested in our safety. His mother is 2nd generation Chinese and served on the Coleman Advocates Board. His father, 3rd generation Japanese, was in the internment camps and worked for the Workers Compensation Board.

Mandelman asked what the Sheriff's Office did? Miyamoto replied that they are part of the criminal justice system and they try to help those in the jails successfully re-enter society. He said realignment of priorities is important right now because the State is about to release a lot of their prisoners to the counties and the prisoners need to be absorbed successfully. There are budgetary constraints. He said there are five keys for their programs: education, employment, recovery, family (reunification), and community. He was committed to the successful integration of new inmates.

Miyamoto stated he has the experience and the respect of the Deputy Sheriff's Association and won the endorsement by a wide margin. Miyamoto was finished speaking at 8:37 p.m. and asked for questions.

Sandra Fewer stated that her fellow School Board members approved of the charter school in the jail and asked about an extension of this program. Miyamoto replied that his plans would be to build upon this. He stated there needs to be a realignment because with the new inmates, people will be in jail longer and will have increased and better opportunities for graduating. He noted that idle time in jails is not encouraged and their goal is to engage the inmates – it is a win-win for the inmates and for staff safety. Future steps could include community college.

Kelly asked if the charter school would be allowed to be unionized. Miyamoto replied in the affirmative. Kelly further asked regarding unionized employees for the college. Miyamoto replied he was not familiar with the unions at Community College, but that he supported unions.

O'Connor asked Miyamoto what his plans were to recruit a diverse staff in the Department. Miyamoto replied the Sheriff's staff needs to reflect the diversity of the City.

Katz recalled the "Stop the Violence" project and how Community College also offered ESL and life skills. Miyamoto agreed and said there was no reason to change successful programs. Miyamoto's portion of the program ended at 8:47 p.m.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Scott Wiener arrived at 8:48 p.m.

6. Resolutions

6A. Resolution in Support of AB1148, California Disclose Act (Eisen)

Mandelman reported the Issues Committee unanimously voted to support this resolution.

Bill Fazio was excused from the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Moved by Haaland, seconded by Nutter, to approve the resolution.

Katz suggested the resolution be forwarded to the Legislative Board.

The motion was approved without objection.

6B. Resolution Regarding Afghanistan Exit Strategy (Eisen)

Moved by Walker, seconded by Kelly, to approve the resolution.

The motion was approved without objection.

6C. Resolution regarding Secure Communities (Campos)

Rothschild, proxy for Attorney General Kamala Harris, stated Ms. Harris will abstain from this vote.

Moved by Haaland, seconded by Walker, to approve the resolution.

The motion passed without objection.

6D. Resolution Supporting Transitional Housing (Fewer)

Wiener reported the Board has already approved the Booker T. Washington Project. Fewer replied she wanted the Board to continue supporting the project. Katz suggested a friendly amendment, to change a phrase in the last paragraph from the words "fulfill its moral obligation" to "continue."

Moved by Haaland, seconded by Eric Quesada's proxy, Wendy Phillips, to approved the resolution as amended.

Avalos, Campos, Eric Mar, and Wiener abstained from voting on this. The motion passed without objection.

7. Discussion Regarding "Top Two" run-off system (Smith)

Peskin noted since Arlo Hale Smith was not present, this would be carried over to the next agenda.

8. Reports

Wiener apologized for being late and questioned the vote regarding Lt. Governor Newsom's seat on the SFDCCC. He asked to be recorded as a "yes" vote and had a point of order to raise – that this was not on the agenda.

Katz said she also wanted to be recorded as a "yes" vote. Yee stated he wished his vote to reflect "Abstain".

Wiener said this subject was not on the agenda and was improperly raised. It needed a 2/3 vote to amend the agenda.

With these changes, the vote is now reflected as:

The vote was 15 no, 11 yes, and 3 abstain.

No: John Avalos, David Campos, Sandra Fewer, Michael Goldstein, Gabriel Haaland, Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar, Milton Marks, Carole Migden, Jane Morrison, Aaron Peskin, Eric Quezada, Alix Rosenthal, Debra Walker

Yes: David Chiu, Bill Fazio, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Melanie Nutter, Connie O'Connor, Dianne Feinstein, Kamala Harris, Mark Leno, Scott Wiener, Leslie Katz

Abstain: Fiona Ma, Tom Ammiano, Leland Yee

8A. Chair's Report (Peskin)

Peskin reported questionnaires went out to Democratic candidates for District Attorney, Sheriff, and Mayor. He thanked Emily Lowe, Kelly and Mandelman for their assistance with this. He reported August 12th was the last day to file, and that the DCCC will conduct interviews on Saturday, August 13th, for all candidates and initiatives. The Endorsement Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 17th, at 6 p.m., in the State Building.

Peskin reminded the Recording Secretary that he had the following proxies: Campos to Mandelman, Chiu to Rosenthal, Avalos to Fewer, and Fazio to Mary Jung.

Peskin also reported the annual fundraiser will be on Thursday, October 20th, and will honor Sheriff Michael Hennessey.

8B. Executive Director's Report (Lowe)

Lowe reported that the DCCC's recent voter registration drive netted 2,380 Democrats.

Wiener asked that the Chair place on the August 17th agenda, the item: Motion to rescind vote on Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom. He pointedly asked the Chair if he would put this on the agenda. Peskin replied that his request would be put in the minutes.

8C. Treasurer's Report (Rosenthal)

Alix Rosenthal reported there was \$5,000 in the federal account and \$10,000 in the state account.

8D. Fundraising Report (Nutter)

Nutter reported the October Fundraiser will be held in City Hall's North Light Court and could hold about 400-450 people.

9. New Business.

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.