

**San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee**  
**Wednesday, September 21, 2011**  
**Minutes**

1. Roll Call

Roll Call started at 7:06 p.m.

Present: Sandra Fewer, Gabriel Haaland, Mary Jung, Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar, Milton Marks, Jane Morrison, Aaron Peskin, Arlo Hale Smith, Debra Walker, Scott Wiener, Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder), Jackie Speier (proxy Jonathan Gast), Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild), Leland Yee (proxy Jordan Curley), Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka), Fiona Ma (proxy Jason Wong), and Tom Ammiano (proxy Kim Shree-Maufas)

Excused with Proxy: John Avalos (proxy Hene Kelly), David Campos (proxy Gabriel Haaland), David Chiu (proxy Nicole Derse), Bill Fazio (proxy Mary Jung), Michael Goldstein (proxy Debra Walker), Tom Hsieh (proxy Arlo Hale Smith), Leslie Katz (proxy Scott Oswald), Carole Migden (proxy Rafael Mandelman), Melanie Nutter (proxy Sandra Fewer), Connie O'Connor (proxy Scott Wiener), Alix Rosenthal (proxy Aaron Peskin)

Absent and Excused: Nancy Pelosi

During roll call, Arlo Hale Smith cited Article 4, Section 6 of the by-laws, and brought up the fact that a few DCCC members have used the maximum number of proxies allowed as stipulated in the by-laws, and that these members would need to be present if they wished to vote. Chairman Aaron Peskin stated this was not an appropriate time to bring up the subject and roll needed to be called first. There was a dispute about whether or not the by-laws should be ignored in matters of attendance and use of proxies. Peskin stated he thought Smith's remarks were despicable given that several members of the Committee have been suffering from cancer. He went on to say that he held many proxies for the evening and if necessary, the validity of each one would be questioned. Smith replied that most of the proxies are valid and that there are only a few members who have abused the proxy privilege. He said a careful review of attendance would show that members John Avalos and Carole Migden have used five or more proxies during the current term.

Scott Wiener tried to interject and opined that there was not anything wrong with what Smith said, and this just pointed to the fact that the DCCC should look at the by-laws again and determine whether they needed to be amended. Peskin replied that he would be willing to put this on the agenda and then provided information on how proxies were handled in the past and that no past chairperson had admonished members for using more than the number of proxies identified in the by-laws.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

Rafael Mandelman asked that two resolutions that were submitted late be added to the agenda.

Moved by Hene Kelly to add the two late resolutions to the agenda, seconded by Debra Walker. The motion passed without objection.

## 3. Ratification of the Chair's appointment to DCCC seat formerly held by Eric Quezada.

Peskin reported that while Quezada was ill, he provided written instructions, asking that Wendy Phillips be allowed to continue as his proxy until he was able to return to DCCC meetings. He agreed with this request and appointed Phillips to Quezada's seat.

Moved by Kelly to approve the Chair's appointment of Wendy Phillips to Eric Quezada's seat, seconded by Walker. This motion passed by acclamation.

## 4. Approval of July 27, 2011 minutes.

Mandelman made a correction to the minutes. In his question under Item No. 4 to mayoral candidate David Chiu, the quote is "terrorize the bastards", not "terrorize the masters." Moved by Mandelman to approve the draft minutes as amended, seconded by Wendy Phillips. This passed without objection.

## 5. Approval of August 17, 2011, minutes

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

## 6. Slate Card RFP selection

Peskin reported three separate e-mails were sent to DCCC members inviting them to be on the Slate Card Committee. He stated that only he and Mandelman attended. Peskin reported that three bids were received after the RFP was distributed: Autumn Press/Dezignamo, Golden Gate, and Lester Connect. After reviewing the proposals, the Committee is recommending Autumn Press/Dezignamo. George Broder asked if the awardee was aware of the changes made to the Policies and Procedures Manual in 2011 after complaints arose about the work done for the November 2010 election. Peskin said Autumn Press is aware of the DCCC's Policies and Procedures.

Moved by Kelly to award the DCCC Slate Card for November 2011 to Autumn Press, seconded by Gabriel Haaland. This passed without objection.

## 7. Resolutions

### A. Eric Quezada Resolution

Mandelman reported the Issues Committee made changes to the resolution and unanimously approved it, as amended. He also recommended adding all members of the DCCC as signers of the resolution. Peskin stated he thought this was an appropriate time for members to share their thoughts and feelings about Quezada's passing. There were several heartfelt remembrances about Quezada's community work and his kindness and devotion to the underserved.

Kelly reminisced about Quezada's activities with the Senior Action Network and the Housing Committee. She said he helped many seniors obtain housing and was always there to assist.

Walker spoke about his time in the early 1990's with Mission Housing and the battle to stop gentrification. She said he was an amazing advocate for those without a voice.

Peskin explained his endorsement of David Campos over Quezada when they both ran for District 9 Supervisor. He said Quezada was truly based in the community and was not interested in personal advancement, but was all about the people who make San Francisco such a great, diverse city. He reminded everyone that there is a fundraiser on October 16 at Jane Morrison's house to raise money for his family to help them during this difficult time. He said there are over \$5,000 in pledges and \$1,600 collected.

Haaland talked about their time together with the San Francisco Tenants Union – even getting arrested a few times together. He said Quezada was an amazing leader and that as activists, we fight hard together, and sometimes against each other. He mentioned how challenging it was to see so many DCCC members ill from cancer and reminded him how we have to behave better and that he, too, was guilty of poor behavior. He said Quezada had a quiet dignity that Haaland aspired to. He then quoted a Beatles tune – The love you take is equal to the love you make.

Eric Mar thanked Morrison for hosting the fundraiser. He has known Quezada for 20 years and loved being at Quezada's house, fighting over Giants tickets. He said Quezada had a beautiful view of society and wanted to make it better, but not in an arrogant way.

Mandelman stated he did not know Quezada as well, but appreciated him. He said Quezada saw what was wrong with the world and wasn't willing to accept it. He thought like a communist and said the world needed radical transformation.

Phillips stated she was honored and humbled to be appointed to his seat. She said he worked for a long time on community development and thought things needed to be different.

Sandra Fewer said she also didn't know Quezada that well, but respected his work and experienced his kindness and thoughtfulness firsthand. She said progressives should make a point to show what we really can do for the betterment of all.

Alix Rosenthal arrived at 7:43 p.m.

Moved by Phillips to approve the resolution as amended, seconded by Haaland. This passed without objection.

#### B. Social Security Resolution (Morrison)

Mandelman reported that this passed the Issues Committee with one minor change. Smith stated he would be voting 'no'.

Moved by Mandelman to accept the amendment to the resolution, seconded by Rothschild. There was no discussion. This passed without objection.

Moved by Wiener to approve the resolution as amended, seconded by Morrison.

Broder stated U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein would abstain.

Morrison remarked about the changes. What ensued was a discussion involving Morrison, Kelly, Wiener, and Peskin about what additional changes should be made to the resolution. Peskin asked Wiener and Morrison to work on the resolution some more and come back to the DCCC in October with revisions. This was not agreed to.

Moved by Walker to amend the resolution a second time, seconded by Kelly. This passed without objection. Broder stated Feinstein would also abstain on this. Smith opined that the resolution was too “absolutist” and should allow for flexibility.

Peskin asked for a roll call on the resolution, twice amended.

Yes: John Avalos, David Campos, David Chiu, Sandra Fewer, Michael Goldstein, Gabriel Haaland, Mary Jung, Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar, Milton Marks, Carole Migden, Jane Morrison, Connie O’Connor, Aaron Peskin, Wendy Phillips, Alix Rosenthal, Debra Walker, Scott Wiener, Kamala Harris, Leland Yee, Mark Leno, Fiona Ma, Tom Ammiano

No: Arlo Hale Smith

Abstain: Bill Fazio, Tom Hsieh, Leslie Katz, Melanie Nutter, Dianne Feinstein, Jackie Speier

The final vote was: 24 Yes, 1 No, 6 Abstain. The resolution passed, as amended.

#### C. Air Quality Resolution (Mandelman)

Mandelman reported there were changes made to this resolution in the Issues Committee. Sandra Fewer, Kelly and Walker asked that their names be added to the resolution. Smith stated he was voting ‘no’ on the resolution.

Moved by Mandelman to approve the resolution as amended, seconded by Wiener. The motion passed without objection. Smith registered a ‘no’ vote. The following members abstained: Fazio, Feinstein, Harris, Ma.

#### D. Library Resolution (Haaland)

Leslie Katz arrived at 8:04 p.m.

Mandelman reported that this resolution was amended in the Issues Committee.

Moved by Mandelman to approve the resolution as amended, seconded by Walker. This passed without objection. Smith registered a ‘no’ vote. Fazio, Feinstein and Hsieh abstained.

E. Kaiser Permanente Resolution (Haaland) (can't find it for proper name)

Mandelman reported this passed the Issues Committee without any changes.

Moved by Morrison to approve the resolution, seconded by Rothschild. This passed without objection. Smith voted 'no'. Fazio, Feinstein, Hsieh, Nutter, and Speier abstained.

8. Public Comment

Robin Brasso, member of the Democratic Women's Forum, stated how disappointed he was at how the DCCC conducted itself and was surprised at the behavior, remarking that she had voted for many of us in the past.

George Miller stood up and said he had wanted to talk about social security, but the DCCC already voted on the resolution regarding this topic. He stated on his public comment card: "There is currently in effect a reduction in social security taxes. 'No change' means this cut will continue."

Linda Chapman, a former Social Security Administration employee, stated that "if you say 'no reduction', you will get what you want. The payroll taxes need to be increased."

Brasso had a question for Broder, as Feinstein's proxy. Peskin stated Brasso could only speak once during Public Comment, but she could speak with Broder after the meeting.

9. Discussion/Action to rescind "No Endorsement" for third place in Mayor's race

Peskin provided background history on IRV and noted that this is the first Mayoral election where IRV will truly be used. He said that at the August Endorsement Meeting, the DCCC endorsed Avalos and Herrera for our No. 1 and 2 choices, and most members voted "No Endorsement" for No. 3. He explained that as Chair, he put this item on the agenda so the members could reconsider their "No Endorsement" vote, and if this passed, the DCCC members could then move on to Item 10, and vote for a candidate or "no endorsement" for No. 3.

Moved by Mandelman to rescind "No Endorsement" for third place in Mayor's race, seconded by Walker.

Katz asked if we were rescinding all the races. Peskin confirmed that it was only the No. 3 choice in the Mayor's race.

Peskin asked for a roll call.

Yes: John Avalos, David Campos, Michael Goldstein, Gabriel Haaland, Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar, Carole Migden, Jane Morrison, Aaron Peskin, Wendy Phillips, Debra Walker, Leland Yee, Fiona Ma

No: David Chiu, Bill Fazio, Sandra Fewer, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Leslie Katz, Milton Marks, Melanie Nutter, Connie O'Connor, Alix Rosenthal, Arlo Hale Smith, Scott Wiener, Dianne Feinstein, Jackie Speier, Kamala Harris, Mark Leno

Abstain: Tom Ammiano

The final vote was: 16 No, 14 Yes, 1 Abstain. Because the motion failed, the “No Endorsement” No. 3 choice stands.

10. Consideration of third ranked candidate in Mayor’s race

Because Item No. 9 failed, Item No. 10 was not considered.

11. Chartering of District 8 Democratic Club

Peskin reported that this item is being pulled until Michael Goldstein, the Vice Chair in charge of Chartering Clubs, returns.

12. Reports

A. Chair’s report (Peskin)

Peskin reported an Eric Quezada Memorial Fund has been established. He thanked all the members for their pledges and donations. He also reported the DCCC’s annual dinner honoring Sheriff Michael Hennessey was moved from October to January 6 or 7, 2012.

Eric Mar was excused from the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

B. Executive Director’s Report (Lowe)

Emily Lowe reported that the DCCC has registered over 4,300 Democrats and as a result of this, the California Democratic Party sent us a check for \$8,100.

C. Treasurer’s Report (Rosenthal)

Alix Rosenthal reported the Federal account has a balance of approximately \$2,700 and the State account has a balance of approximately \$7,500.

D. Fundraising Report (Nutter)

There was no fundraising report.

13. New Business

Peskin stated he thought the social security issue needed to be revisited.

Haaland was excused from the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Moved by Peskin to hold a meeting to come to a better understanding and resolution regarding the social security issue, seconded by Mary Jung. This was approved without objection.

Peskin asked George Miller to attend this meeting.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. in Eric Quezada’s memory.