

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee
Wednesday, March 14, 2012
Minutes of Endorsement Meeting

1. Roll Call

Roll Call started at 7:09 p.m.

Present: David Chiu, Matt Dorsey, Gabriel Haaland, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar, Milton Marks, Carole Migden, Jane Morrison, Aaron Peskin, Leah Pimentel, Alix Rosenthal, Arlo Hale Smith, Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder), Jackie Speier (proxy Brian Perkins), Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild), Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka), Fiona Ma (proxy Bob Twomey), Tom Ammiano (proxy Kim Shree Maufas).

Excused with Proxy: Sandra Fewer (proxy Mary Jung), Connie O'Connor (proxy Jane Morrison), Scott Wiener (proxy Juan Cerda)

Excused without Proxy: John Avalos, David Campos, Bill Fazio, Nancy Pelosi

Absent: Leslie Katz, Melanie Nutter, Leland Yee

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Chair Aaron Peskin reported that member Debra Walker resigned the previous week. He appointed Petra DeJesus on March 8th. He asked that a vote to ratify this appointment be added to the agenda.

Moved by Arlo Hale Smith, seconded by Kim Shree Maufas, to add this to the agenda. It passed without objection and would be Item No. 4 on the agenda.

Peskin also stated that the DCCC needs to consider a vendor for the June slate card. No RFP has been issued yet.

Moved by Leah Pimentel, seconded by Smith, to add this to the agenda. It passed without objection.

Peskin noted the DCCC just made two changes to the agenda.

3. Approval of February 22, 2012, minutes

Peskin stated he did the minutes since Mary Jung was excused.

Tom Hsieh asked that the minutes be changed reflect he was "excused", not "absent."

Matthew Rothschild asked that the minutes be changed to reflect a "yes" vote on Item No. 7.

Moved by Carole Migden, seconded by Hene Kelly, to approve the minutes as amended. The minutes were approved as amended without objection.

Melanie Nutter arrived at 7:16 p.m.

4. Ratify appointment of Petra DeJesus to fill vacancy

Public Comment on Item No. 4 –

Victor Marquez, Alicia Gamez, Stuart Rhoads, Elena Cuias, Catherine Smith, and Sigrid Irias spoke in favor of appointing DeJesus to the vacant seat.

Peskin recounted Debra Walker's history on the DCCC, and her dedication to the Party.

Shree-Maufas, speaking on behalf of State Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, supported this appointment.

George Broder stated he will vote for DeJesus, but he questioned the transparency of the process. He noted with a vacancy so late in the term, was there a need for a replacement? Did Peskin ask members for suggestions? He asked that the minutes reflect his comments.

Peskin replied he has appointing authority and the by-laws state the Chair should fill vacancies within 45 days. He said Walker surprised him on March 6th with a resignation letter. Afterwards, Peskin said he asked a number of people and decided to appoint DeJesus after she agreed to run for a two-year term. He then wrote to the Department of Elections notifying them of her appointment and that it was subject to ratification by the DCCC.

Gabriel Haaland thanked DeJesus for agreeing to serve.

This passed by acclamation. Peskin welcomed DeJesus and she took a seat on the dais.

5. Discussion/possible action regarding by-law amendment to By-Law Section 6, attached (Kelly, Wiener, Peskin)

The amendment offered by Kelly, Wiener and Peskin concerned the issue of excused absences.

Migden and Smith offered an alternative.

Leslie Katz arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Moved by Kelly, seconded by Haaland, to amend the substitute motion.

Migden stated she thought it was a good idea to expand the amendment since there are many good reasons for not being able to attend a meeting, such as children, travel, and work.

Smith stated this was all for a good cause and that a higher standard should be used for excused absences. He said he agreed with Migden – adding funerals and Party business to the list

Moved by Kelly, seconded by Smith, to add the changes to the by-law amendment.

The motion passed without objection.

The amended amendment, now sponsored by Kelly, Scott Wiener, Peskin, Migden, and Smith, passed without objection.

6. Endorsements of Local Propositions

6A. Proposition A: Garbage Collection and Disposal Ordinance

Tony Kelly, who put this on the ballot through a signature drive, spoke in favor of the Proposition.

David Campos arrived at 7:39 p.m.

Jordan Curley and Paul Giusti (of Recology) spoke against the Proposition.

Gabriel Haaland asked which two zip codes were most affected by this? Curley responded Bayview and Visitation Valley.

Leslie Katz asked where the barge goes? Kelly replied the barge went to the City of Pittsburg.

Public Comment:

Mark Gleeson of Recology spoke against the measure, saying it went after workers.

Haaland noted all of labor is against it.

David Campos gave a number of reasons why the Proposal was difficult to support, but said he did support competitive bidding. He said he was voting “abstain”, but he did not support the measure as it is written. Peskin associated himself with Campos’ remarks.

A vote was taken on whether to endorse Proposition A or not, with the following results:

Yes 0 No 25 Abstain 3. Proposition A was not endorsed by the DCCC.

Yes: None

No: Chiu, DeJesus, Dorsey, Fewer, Haaland, Hsieh, Jung, Katz, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, Marks, Migden, Morrison, Nutter, O’Connor, Pimentel, Rosenthal, Smith, Wiener, Feinstein, Speier, Harris, Leno, Ma

Abstain: Campos, Peskin, Ammiano

6B. Proposition B: Coit Tower Initiative Policy Initiative

Jon Golinger, Protect Coit Tower, spoke in favor of Proposition B, explaining it was put on the ballot by a signature drive.

Matt O’Grady, San Francisco Parks Alliance, spoke against the Proposition.

Smith asked what the position of Mayor Ed Lee was, and of the two Commissions affected by the Proposition. Golinger replied the Mayor has been silent on this and Phil Ginsburg of Rec and Park and the Art Commission were against it.

Migden left at 8:18 p.m. and gave her proxy to Rafael Mandelman.

A vote was taken on whether to endorse Proposition B or not, with the following results:

Yes 17 No 7 Abstain 4. Proposition B was endorsed by the DCCC.

Yes: Campos, Chiu, DeJesus, Dorsey, Fewer, Haaland, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, Marks, Migden, Morrison, O'Connor, Peskin, Pimentel, Harris, Ammiano

No: Hsieh, Jung, Katz, Smith, Wiener, Feinstein, Ma

Abstain: Nutter, Rosenthal, Speier, Leno

Broder and Rothschild indicated their votes could not be construed as official positions regarding Proposition B and that the elected representatives would need to be asked separately.

7. Slate Card RFP

Peskin reported that with the June election looming, it was time to start thinking about the DCCC slate card. He said there were three bids for the November 2011 race and the committee unanimously selected Autumn Press. He asked whether the DCCC could dispense with an RFP and use them again?

This passed without objection. Broder voted to abstain.

8. Resolutions – Resolution in support of AB 1648 – The California Disclose Act, attached (Kelly)

Kelly recounted the history of the bill and stated we should vote for this again – a stronger version of the one that did not get out of the Senate last time. She said Nancy Pelosi is fighting for this.

Haaland, David Chiu, Melanie Nutter, Katz, Campos, Jackie Speier, Pimental, DeJesus, and Joni Eisen (President of the Potrero Hill Democratic Club) asked to be added as co-sponsors.

This passed without objection. Smith abstained.

9. General Public Comment

Susan Pfeifer thanked everyone who voted for her as Democrat of the Year at the State Convention. She announced Swing State Phone Banks were starting the weekend of March 17th. She asked for help with setting up the phone banks and announced there would be a caucus on April 29th on running as a delegate to the DNC.

Eisen asked Pfeifer to come speak at the Potrero Hill Democratic Club on April 4th.

Broder was excused from the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

10. Discussion /possible action regarding “Top Two” run-off system (Smith)

Smith distributed information on “Top Two” and asked the committee members to read the material and be prepared to discuss this at the next DCCC meeting. He said we should pay special attention to the section on what we do and the section regarding ex-officios.

11. Discussion regarding Proposal for endorsement process reform, attached (Marks)

Milton Marks presented a proposal for shortening the questionnaires Democratic Clubs asked candidates to fill out. Kelly and Matt Dorsey both agreed with his sentiments.

Peskin stated Marks has been interested in this idea for a while and he asked the DCCC members to give some thought into the process and get back to Marks with ideas by April 15th. Peskin asked Katz and Chiu to work with Marks on a proposal.

12. Reports

- a. a. Chair's Report – Peskin thanked Emily Lowe, Executive Director of the DCCC, for her work on the March fundraiser and reported the DCCC is now in the black. He said close to \$45,000 was raised.
- a. b. Executive Director's Report – Lowe thanked everyone for their support on the fundraiser and announced voter registration was about to begin.
- a. c. Treasurer's Report – Alix Rosenthal reported the DCCC netted \$21,000 at the event.

13. New Business

There was no new business.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Perkins, seconded by Pimentel, to adjourn the meeting. This passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.