

Regular Meeting
San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee
April 25, 2012
7 p.m.
455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco
Milton Marks Auditorium

Minutes

1. Roll Call

Roll was called at 7:10 p.m. by Chair Aaron Peskin who noted that Recording Secretary, Mary Jung, was en route.

Present: John Avalos, David Chiu (arrived at 7:27 pm), Matt Dorsey, Mary Jung (arrived at 7:18 pm), Leslie Katz, Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar, Jane Morrison, Melanie Nutter, Sandra Fewer, Gabriel Haaland, Leah Pimentel, David Campos, Tom Hsieh (arrived at 7:20 pm), Aaron Peskin, Alix Rosenthal, Arlo Hale Smith, Milton Marks, Petra DeJesus (arrived at 7:40 pm), Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder arrived at 7:18 pm), Jackie Speier (proxy Brian Perkins), Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild), Leland Yee (proxy John Rizzo), Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka), Fiona Ma (proxy Jason Wong), Tom Ammiano (proxy Kim Shree Maufas)

Excused, with Proxy: Hene Kelly (proxy Jane Morrison). Hene Kelly arrived at 7:50 pm.

Excused, without Proxy: Carole Migden, Bill Fazio, Connie O'Conner

Absent: Scott Wiener, Nancy Pelosi

Peskin started the meeting by announcing that Executive Director, Emily Lowe, is moving to Chicago and thanked her for her work and service over the last four years.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of March 14, 2012, minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. Public Comment

Shona Gochenaur, Terrie Frye, Cathy Smith, Stephanie Tucker and 3 other speakers spoke in favor of the Resolution in support of AB 2312. Susan Pfeiffer encouraged people to come vote for delegates to the DNC Convention in North Carolina, including herself.

5. Resolutions

A. Resolution in support of AB 2312 (Haaland)

Gabriel Haaland indicated he had language changes for the resolution and asked that the changes be approved by acclamation.

Brian Perkins stated he would need to abstain on this.

David Chiu arrived at 7:27 p.m.

John Avalos and Milton Marks asked to be added as co-sponsors. The proxies for Kamala Harris and Fiona Ma stated they would also abstain from this vote.

Moved by Haaland, seconded by Alix Rosenthal, to accept the resolution, as changed by acclamation. This passed without objection.

Peskin stated that Lowe is moving to Chicago. Lowe replied it has been an honor to work on the DCCC. Peskin said we needed to look immediately at transition since Lowe would be leaving at the end of May. He said we could start the hiring process now or leave this decision for the next DCCC to decide.

6. Discussion/possible action regarding "Top Two" run-off system (Smith)

Peskin stated he read the information distributed regarding Top Two and liked the policy recommendation. He asked that if Top Two doesn't affect the November election, perhaps the current DCCC should wait on this and allow the new DCCC to make the decision to pass these changes to the by-laws.

Arlo Hale Smith replied that after June 5th, there might be two Democrats running against each other. He proposed that no one sit as the Democratic nominee between June 5th and November 2012. There was discussion between Peskin, Hale, and Leslie Katz regarding how this affected the make-up of the DCCC and Smith provided examples of how similar situations played out in the past. In the past, the Democratic nominee for State Office, upon being the top vote getter for the Democratic Party, would obtain a seat on the DCCC at the first meeting after the Primary results were certified.

Petra DeJesus arrived at 7:41 p.m.

Peskin asked Katz and Smith to look at the language of the proposal during the meeting and come back to the DCCC with a recommendation.

He proposed moving on to Item No. 7 in the meantime.

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

Marks spoke about his proposal. Peskin asked him and David Chiu to circulate it and be ready for discussion at the May 23rd DCCC meeting.

Chiu proposed that the DCCC have a basic questionnaire that all candidates fill out. He suggested that before the filing deadline, clubs be asked what questions they would like to have asked; and in addition to this, each club could have their own limited set of questions. Chiu emphasized he didn't think it was the DCCC's role to shut down questions.

Marks said his wife suggested this after seeing the number of questionnaires that came in for candidates. He stated he is advocating a more transparent process that has more information

posted on the web site, including information such as how many members were present at the voting meeting.

Peskin announced that Katz and Smith were ready to present, so the meeting reverted to Item No. 6.

Katz and Smith stated that the DCCC should not do anything at this time, with the end result being that the members voting would remain the same – that Assemblywoman Fiona Ma would continue having an ex-officio seat on the DCCC – but the incoming Democratic nominee would not until January 2013.

Peskin repeated that there are options. If the DCCC does nothing, only Ma will have an ex-officio seat until January 2013. If no Democrat wins in November for Assembly Seat 19, then the top Democratic vote getter will get a seat in January.

Hale repeated that under Top Two, there are no official party nominees. He proposed giving a seat to the top vote getter in June. Hale also stated that if we did not amend our bylaws that the top Democratic vote getter would not get a seat until he or she prevailed in the November general election.

Tom Hsieh stated the CDP endorsement has a higher bar to achieve and that we continue with that nominee until the general election. This would continue the tradition of having the Democratic nominee on the DCCC through at least November.

There was more discussion with Perkins, Smith, Rafael Mandelman, Chiu, and Matthew Rothschild.

Hene Kelly arrived at 8 p.m.

Eric Mar arrived at 8:04 p.m.

John Rizzo noted that we've had a robust discussion and moved that the DCCC do nothing on this issue at this time.

8. Report

A. Chair's report (Peskin)

Peskin again expressed his sadness about Lowe's departure and said he and Melanie Nutter would be taking her out to dinner before she leaves.

Alix Rosenthal reported the Treasury has \$7,000 more than the \$2,347 shown on the March 31 balance sheet. Peskin announced that he, Chiu, and the four other Supervisors would raise enough money to see the DCCC through July. Peskin also reported the office space lease was up on April 30 or May 31 and we should decide to cancel the lease or extend it.

Moved by Mandelman to keep the office space, seconded by Rothschild.

b. Executive Director's Report (Lowe)

Lowe stated she would help with transitioning new staff from wherever she is. She will be leaving San Francisco June 1, 2012.

Peskin offered his profound thanks for her service.

c. Treasurer's Report (Rosenthal)

This report was given under (A)

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Jason Wong, seconded by Hene Kelly to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.