

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California
Milton Marks Auditorium
Wednesday, September 26, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting Minutes

Note: A majority of the members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and of one or more Board committees, currently serve as members of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee (SFDCCC). The law is not clear as to whether the open meeting requirements of state and local law apply to SFDCCC meetings attended by these Board members. Out of abundance of caution, the Board members and the SFDCCC have agreed to comply with these open meeting laws.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 7:07 pm

Chair: Mary Jung. Members: Kat Anderson, John Avalos, David Campos (absent), David Chiu (arrived 8:13 p.m.), Malia Cohen, Petra DeJesus (absent), Matt Dorsey, Bevan Dufty (excused), Zoe Dunning, Kelly Dwyer, Bill Fazio (excused), Tom Hsieh, Leslie Katz (arrived 7:58 p.m.), Hene Kelly, Meagan Levitan (excused), Rafael Mandelman (proxy Joshua Abeyta), Eric Mar (absent), Trevor McNeil, Carole Migden (excused), Leah Pimentel, Alix Rosenthal, Arlo Smith (excused), and Scott Wiener (absent). Ex Officio Members: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder); U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (excused); U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier (proxy Brian Perkins); Attorney General Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild); State Senator Leland Yee (absent); State Senator Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka); Assemblymember Fiona Ma (proxy Jason Wong); Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (proxy Kim Shree-Maufas).

2. Public Comment

Alec Bash spoke about the opening of OFA and DCCC HQ at 2278 Market Street. Invited members and audience to have phone-a-thon parties at HQ.

Susan Pfeifer for OFA. Vote. 6 weeks away: go phone or canvas. Spoke highly about DCCC and collaborative efforts. Marriage equality was a key issue. Take back Congress!

Sharen Hewitt from "Da Bus" gave an update. Extended appreciation re: DCCC. Asked for continued support re: "Da Bus" initiative.

Public comment closed at 7:16 pm.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Moved by Cohen to approve the agenda, seconded by Rosenthal. Approved by acclamation.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Moved by Kelly to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 15, 2012, seconded

by Rosenthal. Approved by acclamation.

Hsieh asked the record to reflect that he changed his vote on G from no to yes. Avalos asked the record to reflect that he voted for Crowley in first round of D7 voting.

5. Reports

SF DCCC Member Reports, including discussion and possible action, to report to the full committee progress on work assignments and discussions with members of the public or public officials concerning the SF DCCC future work.

a) Chair – Mary Jung reported on progress related to executive director applicants, announcing we hired Ally Hergenraeder. Job description was edited and posted by Dunning. Reviewed 18-20 resumes, conducted 10 phone interviews and interviewed 5 candidates. DCCC has temporary campaign space at 2278 Market Street in the Castro; getting great foot traffic; has parking. We share with Organizing for America, Prop C and Prop E. Our Convention Party was well attended. CDP Chair John Burton and former SF Mayor Willie Brown spoke. Vince Courney from Local 261 provided the labor perspective. Many thanks to Local 261 for hosting us with their space and supplying the audio/visual equipment. HQ opening on September 22 was also well attended with special guest Leader Nancy Pelosi, making the point that SF must help take back Congress. Ally is coordinating voter registration, and will eventually be focusing on Pelosi’s “Drive for 25” to take back Congress and Yes on 30/No on 32 efforts.

b) Executive Director Report – Ally Hergenraeder stated we need volunteers at 2278 Market. Our goal is 10,000 registered voters, and we’ve made a good start. Will also need phone bankers and people willing to travel to red counties and states.

c) Finance – Zoe Dunning reported on progress related to fundraising and other activities. Thanked the committee was sponsoring the Watch Party. Almost everyone contributed. We will plan smaller fundraisers between now and January and possibly a January gala.

d) Voter Registration – Trevor McNeil reported on progress related to voter registration and participation in the California Democratic Party’s Chartered Organization Voter Registration “Bounty” Program. We were trying to be more purposeful and have a calendar of events. We’ve started an internship program to get young people involved and to recruit young people. New citizens swearing in ceremony – brought in 210, largest ever. We have the groundwork laid to get to 10,000. Please come volunteer, even on your lunch hour.

Hene Kelly espoused idea that all DCCC members should go down to the HQ and bring in other volunteers. Important to get the calendar out.

Matt Dorsey said we will put it on the website.

Joshua Abeyta wants to know if on-line program will jibe with Bounty program.

McNeil replied he understands this is not going to work. Party is looking for other

ways to incentivize. Kim Shree-Mafas offered to work with young people.

Hergenraeder can share with Google calendar events.

e) Club Chartering – Leah Pimentel reported on status of coordination with chartered Democratic clubs in advance of the fall election and plans for club chartering.

Chartering will occur at next DCCC meeting. See website for further info. October 18, there is training for Club Cabinet members of the clubs.

Hewitt spoke from the floor about “We the People Democratic Club has submitted paperwork. Deadline is October 12 and chartering will occur later in October.

George Broder asked about communications to clubs regarding re-chartering. Kelly clarified – can a club endorse a non-Democrat over a Democrat in non-partisan races? Jung stated there must be a change to the by-laws to go otherwise.

Tom Hsieh stated that as a process answer, Broder can ask chair to calendar it for the next meeting where it can be voted on or kicked to a committee. If it gains a 2/3s majority, it will supersede what went into the by-laws some time ago.

f) Communications – Matt Dorsey reported on continued efforts to make the party’s website the most vibrant resource it can be. There are links to register to vote on-line. Will provide links to SF Department of Elections. Beginning in early October, voters can look up all sorts of information re: polling places, ballots, etc. We are providing information re: resources for Democratic clubs.

Kelly praised the posting of the endorsement questionnaires on the website. Was extremely helpful.

Dorsey stated we asked candidates to submit high res photos, and those are posted. Business cards will be designed and printed for DCCC members, who opt to have them. Dorsey will follow-up with members. Working on by-law amendments re: Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance.

g) Treasurer - Hsieh reported on the current budget and finances of the party, and budgetary needs moving forward. (See report submitted.) Balance in August was a little over \$12,000.

Two large donations from two labor organizations for Watch Party. We received \$5,000 from the Firefighters. Information on profit & loss statement. We have a federal and a state account.

There are liabilities (bills) accrued from the previous administration which this administration will pay.

Cohen asked about the DCCC overhead costs. Hsieh explained the federal account takes care of our fixed overhead – office rent, ED salary, other recurring monthly expenses. Our state account handles slate card operations – printing, mailing, etc.

We can make transfers between the two accounts, as approved by our accountants.

Our new ED's salary will be reflected in the next report, per her hire date.

We need to be very cautious on how we spend our money. We should generate some income through our slate card operation.

6. Slate Card RFP Selection

Mandelman has resigned from the committee since he is a candidate for Community College Board. Rothschild reported that there have been meetings with Nicole Derse of 50+1 Strategies, approaching candidates and campaigns, doing rounds with "our tin cup." It is a big expense for the candidates. Hsieh reported we plan to mail to 150,000+ households twice city-wide. Are doing different versions for Chinese and Latino voters to do our ethnic outreach, grow our party. Slate cards should arrive in mailbox @ same time as absentee ballots.

7. Presentation by Emerge California

By Executive Director Kimberly Ellis.

Seven month intensive program from December to June to train women to run for office. In 10 years, have trained almost 250 women. Have enjoyed a 70% win rate for those who run. More than half of the participants in the program have been women of color. Primarily only operated in Bay Area. Looking to expand scope to become a state-wide organization. Emerge is so important. Women, who comprise 58% of the population have only 17% representation in government. We are behind Mexico, China and Rwanda. We are recruiting now. Details on-line. Scholarships are available. Event on September 27 is our Annual Men's event who support Emerge. Men of Emerge California. 6:30 to 8:30 at Roe Nightclub and Lounge.

Leslie Katz arrived at 7:58 pm.

8. Endorsements

Consideration of Proposition 39. Alix Rosenthal explained the County Committee follow the CDP endorsement recommendation on Statewide Proposition endorsements. When the CDP is neutral, County Committees are allowed to endorse. This is the case with Prop 39.

We can vote yes, no, no endorsement or abstain. One of those choices has to get 50% plus 1 (except abstains).

Explanation of Prop. 39: taxes multi-state businesses; closes a tax loop-hole. Estimated to bring in \$1 billion annually. Will be dedicated to energy efficiency projects. Opponents are mostly Republicans and those who oppose taxes in general.

Dorsey noted the reason CDP did not endorse is because of AD1500, which has now died in the State Senate. Burton, Al Perez, CLF, Sierra Club are among the supporters. If we endorse, we will join Counties of LA, Alameda, Ventura, etc.

Katz moved for acclamation, Hsieh seconded. Feinstein abstained. Approved by

remaining members.

9. New Business

Kelly shared info about a Jane Morrison brunch with head of state party, John Burton. 11:30 to 2 on Sunday.

Tomorrow night, party at Stein's for Richmond District Democratic Club, celebrating 25 years. 6-9 pm. First of two anniversary parties.

Dunning moved for birthday wishes in honor of the chair. Seconded by Hsieh. We sang Happy Birthday to Mary Jung.

Katz announced that a number of law students from Hastings want to go to Nevada the 4 or 5 days before the election. Looking to send 25-50 law students. Looking for donations. She is working with Jung. Tami Baldwin vs. Tommy Thompson in Nebraska – getting tight. Event for her in SF on October 9 from 6-7:30. Contact Katz to get the invitation. Contribute to VictoryFund.org. This will be a critical race to keep a hold on the Senate. If anyone has extra FF miles to fly to Washington State to work on legalizing same-sex marriage, let Katz know.

David Chiu arrived at 8:13 p.m.

Rosenthal discussed Emerge America and has a fundraiser on October 3, 2012. Dunning and Rosenthal are getting a table. Tickets are \$150.

McNeil discussed the intern program. If you have any connections, we are looking to treat them to supervisor tours, etc.

Katz announced that if anyone is interested in an LGBT conference, it is 4 arms for 3 days. A pre-conference session on executive appointments in DC will take place. See Victoryinstitute.org

Broder requested deadline for adding topic to next agenda. Jung said 10 days before.

10. Adjournment

Congresswoman Speier's proxy, Bryan, moved and Kelly seconded to adjourn at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kat Anderson
Recording Secretary
Democratic County Central Committee

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