

# San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California  
Milton Marks Auditorium  
Wednesday, January 23, 2013  
7:00 p.m.

## Minutes of Regular Meeting

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

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### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 7:11 pm

Present:

Members: Kat Anderson, David Campos, David Chiu, Malia Cohen, Petra DeJesus, Matt Dorsey, Kelly Dwyer, Zoe Dunning, Tom Hsieh, Leslie Katz, Hene Kelly, Meagan Levitan, Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar, Trevor McNeil, Leah Pimentel, Alix Rosenthal, Arlo Hale Smith.

Ex Officio Members: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder); Attorney General Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild); State Senator Leland Yee (proxy John Rizzo); State Senator Mark Leno (proxy Julius Turman); Assemblymember Phil Ting (proxy Jason Wong); Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (proxy Kim-Shree Maufas).

Represented by Proxy: Chair Mary Jung (proxy Trevor McNeil), John Avalos (proxy Jeremy Pollock), Bevan Dufty (proxy Malia Cohen).

Absent excused: Bill Fazio, Carole Migden, Scott Wiener.

Absent: U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier.

Late arrivals: Campos (7:15); Levitan (7:20); Mandelman (7:26); Mar (7:27); Katz (7:29)

## **2. Public Comment**

The following people spoke against proposed bylaw change that restricts Democratic clubs from endorsing non-Democrats:

Central City Democratic Club: David Elliot Lewis, Mike Nulty, Susan Bryan

D6 Democratic Club: Brian Webster

Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club: Terrrie Frye, Lee Hepner, Tom Temprano, Gustave Feldman, Max Siegel, Tab Buckner, Kevin Bard, Aaron Selverston, Annie Chou, William Walker (CCSF student trustee)

Bernal Heights Democratic Club: Laurel Muniz

Greg Kamin

Tami Bryant – A D5 resident who is a Democrat

The following people spoke in favor of proposed bylaw change that restricts Democratic clubs from endorsing non-Democrats:

FDR Democratic Club: Jonathan Lyens

Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club: Martha Knutsen

Susan Pfeifer – Organizing for America – proposal to SFDCCC re: Mary Jung, Ally Hergenraeder and Alec Bash

Frank McGinness – Bay Area “Intactivists” – spoke against circumcision

Patrick Brown – San Diego “Intactivists” – spoke against circumcision

Gypsy Taub – My Naked Truth – Spoke against San Francisco legislation that restricts nudity in public places and supervisors that support it. Taub disrobed; time was called; Taub was told she was out of order and asked to leave; security was called. DCCC recessed at 7:38 pm. Taub was escorted out by security at 7:44 pm. Public comment resumed at 7.45 pm

Denise Dorey – SF Liberal Buzz – spoke about nudity being art. Thinks the Democratic Party has gone way to the right.

Public comment closed at 7:59 pm.

## **3. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

M/S/C (Hene Kelly/Leslie Katz) Agenda approved.

#### 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2012 minutes are amended to delete Westside Chinese Democratic Club from the list of chartered clubs.

M/S/C (Matthew Rothschild/Tom Hsieh) Minutes approved as amended.

Kelly requested larger font.

#### 5. Reports

SF DCCC Member Reports, including discussion and possible action, to offer updates on work assignments and discuss ongoing objectives.

- a) **Chair** (In Mary Jung's absence; report given by Zoe Dunning) Activities and forthcoming priorities: March 8<sup>th</sup> is our Spring Fundraiser. Dim Sum breakfast at Yank Sing. Save the Date card is forthcoming. We need good attendance.

Delegates for State Convention were elected last weekend. Well run and well attended.

DCCC members are automatic members to the State party. We are allocated 8 additional seats.

Chair Jung has come up with a slate of candidates. Two members of this body (Meagan Levitan and Arlo Hale Smith) cannot make the convention, so that opens two more slots for appointment.

Executive Board appointments: Jung, Kelly, Rothschild

Reps: Suzy Loftus and Francis Tsang, London Breed, Cecilia Chung, Vince Countney, Jr., Molly Fleishman, Melanie Nutter, Matthew Rothschild, Adam Taylor and Matt Tuchow.

Discussion:

Malia Cohen asked for clarification on procedure for approving candidates. Smith commented.

Cohen opined that only one candidate is African American, and asked that at least one AA male be put forth. Asked for diversity.

Dunning offered some background. Jung was looking at the over all 56 people that were elected and this body, including the recent ADEM elections – all representing SF County.

Katz – traditionally, it has been the chair’s prerogative. Historically, the chair looks at the composition across the board. We do have to ratify this. Petra DeJesus – is wondering what the diversity is. She would have liked a break-down. Going forward, we should have more insight before a ratification vote.

Rosenthal – there may be others that cannot make it; and we should all encourage Jung to look at diversity issues.

Kelly – if any of us are absent, we can name our own proxies. We should create a list that we would involve in politics and circulate that. Kelly asked about numbers of delegates and was told 8. She gave Jung a list of names and sees none of them. We need to get young people involved.

Kelly Dwyer – do we know the composition of those who were elected?

Rothschild – Tom Ammiano’s slate had no Asian Americans; Jung took a look at that. About 150 people are selected. You cannot look at just these 10. Jung has taken everything she could into account; keeping diversity in mind.

Cohen – I appreciate the education on the discretion the chair has. Can anyone share the composition of Ammiano’s slate?

Kelly – both slates were mixed and really good candidates won.

Katz – we should consider giving an orientation on this in the future.

Dunning – let’s put it on the agenda for the retreat.

M/S/C (Hsieh/Anderson) to approve slate (unanimous).

b) **Executive Director Report** (Ally Hergenraeder)

Continuing voter registration. Looking for interns for college campuses. A local ad agency is donating their time to make us attractive to young people.

Thanked Trevor McNeil, Kat Anderson and Kelly for helping with election of delegates.

c) **Voter Registration** (Trevor McNeil) report on voter registration efforts.

Ramping down from the campaign, but want to discuss dreams of campus registration. We are at Farmers’ Market regularly and other sites. We would like each of you to work two of these sites during the year. Bounty program has been put on pause until spring because of on-line registration.

- d) **Club Chartering** (Leah Pimentel) – Tonight the Central City Democratic Club submitted their documents and they will be re-chartered.

M/S/C (Smith/Kelly) U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein abstained.

- e) **State Legislative Update** (Arlo Hale Smith) – County clerks wanted to get rid of County Committee elections years ago. Democrats opposed. Instead, State Legislature passed legislation at behest of County Clerks and Democratic Party leadership worked it out. So, CC elections will occur during presidential elections. Kehoe supported the bill. Leadership of both state parties agreed and Clerks supported it. CC is a constitutional office.

Kelly – everything that Smith says is truth; but it is problematic to me. Smith told us this was coming. I have a problem with a vote where people thought they were voting for me for two years. This is a big problem; done to save money. But we presented ourselves as being here for two years. “I have a real moral problem with it.”

McNeil – if we don’t change the bylaws, what happens?

Smith – the bylaws say that we serve until the next Presidential primary.

Matt Dorsey – could we decide in the off-years to have a caucus rather than having an election?

Smith – political parties do have rights to self-governance. So, possibly yes, but the problem is – there is not going to be a party ballot in two years.

Alix Rosenthal – I was disappointed that I don’t get to run in another two years. I’m also convinced that it is illegal what they’ve done. I’m all for Dorsey’s suggestion that we caucus. We’d have to fund it ourselves.

John Avalos (Proxy) – see section 7230 – seems to be up to committee’s discretion.

DeJesus – we should do an election of the board in two years

Rafael Mandelman – I would strongly oppose a caucus. A handful of party insiders picking people for a two year period? Not a good idea.

Kelly – a caucus becomes a very small venue.

Avalos proxy – can finance its own election.

Pimentel – We want to include the thousands of people who voted for DCCC candidates

Rothschild – the voters are the people who changed the rules.

- f) **Finance** (Zoe Dunning) report on fundraising activities. Plans for DCCC retreat, development of strategic plan and identifying priorities for 2013.

We are scraping the bottom of the barrel. We need to step up fundraising activities. We are having a 2013 planning session on Feb. 2 at Local 261. Approx. 9 am to 2 pm. We need attendance to be good. Let Dunning know if you have agenda items – by Saturday.

- g) **Treasurer** (Tom Hsieh) Balance sheet for December 31, 2012. We have to have two accounts: federal and state. All federal monies are from people, federal candidates, and federal PACs, and are used for salaries, rent, overhead. Local and State PACs or entities go into the state fund, and can be used on slate mailers. There is about \$20,000 in assets but we have liabilities of over \$31,000. By end of February, the DCCC will be upside down by about \$16,000. We derive funds from two events: Spring and Fall fundraisers. Important that we send a message to our entire Democratic community. March 8 is a big event.

#### **6. Slate Card recap (Nicole Derse)**

Recap on the San Francisco Democratic Party's slate card program for the recently concluded fall election by Nicole Derse, co-founder and principal of 50+1 Strategies.

Most of the DCCC-endorsed candidates won; all endorsed propositions won.

We mailed two cards plus some specials – over 467,000 pieces. 187,500 slate cards and door hangers were passed out.

Hsieh gave kudos to Derse for a fine job.

#### **7. Resolution (Hene Kelly/Matt Dorsey with Alix Rosenthal, Malia Cohen, Zoe Dunning, Leslie Katz, Kelly Dwyer, Leah Pimentel, David Campos, David Chiu, Rafael Mandelman, Tom Hsieh, Kat Anderson, Tom Ammiano, Petra DeJesus)**

Resolution (authored by Kelly, attached) affirming the San Francisco Democratic Party's support for women's reproductive rights and endorsing the Celebration of Women, Life, and Liberty on January 26, 2013 to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision.

M/S/C (Katz/Smith)

#### **8. Bylaws Reform (Matt Dorsey/Arlo Hale Smith)**

Discussion and possible action of proposed reforms to the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee Bylaws (attached, together with two-page summary) to harmonize noticing and meeting requirements with provisions of the Brown Act and other laws applying to local government bodies.

Smith: 95% of these changes is the result of two committees over two years – after top two passed in 2010. I approached our chair about that and I served on a committee to work to adapt our bylaws to top two. One effect of top two is that there were ten Assembly seats where no Republicans were on the ballot. There were two races that had no Democrats.

The other major thing was, we had a bylaws committee where Dorsey has done most of the work to deal with the realities of the Brown Act given our 6 supervisors on the committee.

The other changes to change from “two years” to “four years.” Charters in 3 months is not long enough.

George Broder, representing Senator Dianne Feinstein, proposed that Democrats be supported in “any” race.

Most of the work of the two committees involve non-controversial issues.

Kelly: If we serve for four years, it says we can have a proxy if we are absent 5 times. Suggest that if we go to four years, we should have 10 proxies.

Smith: that has been discussed.

Kelly: is it in order to make an amendment?

Smith: There should be a motion to adopt the report.

M/S/C (Kelly/Maufas). Approved by acclamation to adopt the report.

Discussion ensued.

M/S/C (Kelly/Hsieh) to change the language re: proxies to double the number since DCCC term has doubled. Approved by acclamation.

(Smith: Art 4 section 6)

M/S/C (Kelly/Smith) to bifurcate the bylaws change about chartering clubs.

Katz: Wants to pull the bullet re: 15 days.

Hsieh: Number 7 bullet under major changes – should be pulled for budget reasons.

John O’Riordan (President of Irish-American Democratic Club): sought clarification re: “may vote by proxy.”

Katz: A friendly amendment “may vote by proxy at no more than ten meetings.”

M/S/C (Rothschild/Chiu) Approved by acclamation.

Bullet 1 discussion:

Katz: discussion re: 15 days versus 72 hours. Longer notice encourages inclusion.

Dorsey: says 72 hours is a more realistic target.

Rosenthal: associates with what Dorsey said. 72 hours helps us to be more nimble.

Mandelman: agrees with Katz – trying to get word out in 3 days is hard. We can deal with last minute things by having 2/3s vote.

M/C/C (Chiu/Katz) Avalos abstained. For a two-part approach – 15 days for agenda for regular items and able to have an emergency resolution with 72 hours notice and a 2/3s vote is required for consideration.

Chiu gave kudos to Dorsey.

4<sup>th</sup> bullet discussion:

Smith – I am moving that we adopt this except that clubs can endorse anyone they want in non-partisan races. (Adding top two language)

Changing “any” back to “partisan” accomplishes what Smith wants to do. See Art 9 section 2:



Tom Gallagher: chartered club presidents are non-voting members. He is from Bernal Heights Democratic Club. They were open to endorsing candidates with values that fit even though they were not Democrats. Now, most of those candidates have switched from Green party to the Democratic party.

Dorsey: Democratic clubs should be allowed to support those with values that offer a good fit.

DeJesus: affirms what Dorsey says.

Hsieh: We need to focus on transparency. When a person gets information from a Democratic club, he has an expectation that a Democrat is being supported. There should be a disclaimer: "Tom Hsieh, Non-Democrat."

Dunning: you would amend the bylaws?

Hsieh: I suggest that clubs note the FPPC and Brown Act rules require notices and transparency.

Pimentel: We should consider a special symbol

Mandelman: I think it is a good thing for the Democratic party to include a diversity of community.

Rothschild: Go back 20 years to see where this came from. The issue wasn't from the left. In 1994, a Chinese democratic club was endorsing Conroy, a Republican, and put it on a Democratic slate card.

Rosenthal: I don't know what problem this solves. We should choose magnanimity over vindictiveness. I would oppose this bylaw change.

McNeil: Tom's suggestion is a nice way of saying there is support for the independence of our clubs, but keep things transparent for democratic voters.

Jason Wong, proxy for Assemblymember Phil Ting, stated CADC has a charter directly from the state.

Anderson: Call the question.

Smith: his motion is to change “any” to “partisan.”

Seconded by Wong

Friendly Amendment: Hsieh/seconded McNeil: any chartered club to endorse would have a designation similar to....[Dccc will issue guidelines at a later date]

Accepted by Smith

Kelly: Substitute amendment: Moves to pull bullet and the amendment for committee consideration.

Maufas: thought she heard consensus forming around this as supported by Hsieh’s amendment.

Hsieh: I am in favor of passing this onto the next meeting or two meetings from now to allow everyone to have time to think it through.

M/S/C (Wong/Rosenthal) On Hsieh deferment amendment.

Opposed by Mandelman, Dorsey; Abstentions by Avalos, State Senator Mark Leno, State Senator Leland Yee.

Vote on Smith’s amendment (changing “any” to “partisan”)

Broder stated that Senior Senator believes that Democrats should vote only for Democrats; nothing punitive was intended. Letter from Harvey Milk Club president was well-organized letter. Senator will vote against this amendment.

Bylaw amendment passes as proposed by Smith: 14 – 10 (3 abstains; 4 absences; 1 proxy not exercised (Wiener/Kelly):

NO: (10)

ANDERSON

COHEN

DUFTY

DUNNING

HSIEH

JUNG

LEVITAN

MCNEIL

FEINSTEIN  
HARRIS

YES: (14)

AVALOS  
CAMPOS  
CHIU  
DEJESUS  
DORSEY  
DWYER  
KATZ  
KELLY  
MANDELMAN  
MAR  
PIMENTEL  
ROSENTHAL  
SMITH  
AMMIANO

ABSTAIN: (3)

LENO  
YEE  
TING

ABSENT - NO PROXY (4)

FAZIO  
MIGDEN  
PELOSI  
SPEIER  
WIENER

TOTAL: 32

Bullet 7: audio/video

Rothschild: can we put it that we “encourage” meetings to be recorded?

Hsieh: I would love to see what this means if we cannot do it in a transparent way. Want what we do to be in conformance with our bylaws.

Maufas: affirms what Rothschild says.

Chiu: it is unclear that we have to do this, but if we can – we would like to be transparent. I suggest we punt this to the next meeting.

M/S/C (Chiu/Mandelman). Table it to next meeting. Approved by acclamation.

## **9. New Business**

Rosenthal: Today is a momentous occasion in civil rights – ban on women serving in combat has been lifted.

Dunning: affirmed that. She joined the armed services in 1981 at age 17.

Kelly: was pleased to hear President Obama speaking about “all people” being created equal.

## **10. Adjournment**

M/S/C (Anderson/Dunning) Adjourned at 10:05 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Kat Anderson  
Recording Secretary  
Democratic County Central Committee*

**####**