

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California
Milton Marks Auditorium
Wednesday, February 27, 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 (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 7:04 pm

Present:

Members: Kat Anderson, David Campos, Petra DeJesus, Matt Dorsey, Zoe Dunning, Kelly Dwyer, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Hene Kelly, Carole Migden, Leah Pimentel, Alix Rosenthal, Scott Wiener

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 Keith Baraka); Assemblymember Phil Ting (proxy Jason Wong); Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (proxy Kim-Shree Maufas)

Represented by Proxy:

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

Absent: Bevan Dufty, Bill Fazio, Eric Mar

Post-roll call arrivals: Malia Cohen (7:07); David Chiu (7:08); Trevor McNeil (7:17); Meagan Levitan (7:32); Arlo Hale Smith (7:34); Rafael Mandelman (7:35); Leslie Katz (7:36); John Avalos (7:43)

2. Public Comment

Daraka Larimore-Hall is on Santa Barbara Democratic County Central Committee. Running for California Democratic Party Secretary. Asks for our support. www.Darakaforsecretary.com

Carolyn Fowler is running for Secretary as well. She is bootcamp chair for Women's Caucus. Is endorsed by Christine Pelosi. Managing elections and running

communications are the two roles of the Secretary. She has experience in both.
www.carolynfowler.com

Hilary Crosby is supporting Daraka for Secretary. She is controller of the CA Democratic Party.

Emilie Gatfield in support of Daraka.

Susan Pfeifer gave update on OFA 4.0, now called Organizing for Action. They want to form chapters. She is now VP of Westside Democratic Club.

Tom Temprano in support of charter of Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Fred Ross, Jr. thanked Board of Supervisors for honoring Fred Ross, Sr. Thank you for considering the award for his father.

Brian Leubitz re: Regional Meeting before convention on March 12 in Burlingame at 7 pm. Please attend. He will send emails to everybody.

Public comment closed at 7:22 pm.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda

M/S/C (Rosenthal; Rothschild) Agenda approved with the following change: to add the Fred Ross, Sr. resolution. It is Item 10. Item 11 is now New Business.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

M/S/C (Rosenthal/Cohen) Minutes approved.

5. Reports

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

- a) **Chair** (Mary Jung) The California Democratic convention is April 12-14, 2013. Reminders were sent to everyone. Book your hotel now to get the convention hotel so you will be near the convention. A special reception will occur on April 4th with Leno and Ting. Time: 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. On back of Save the Date flyer is a list of all the delegates we know about. What is missing from this list: Feinstein, Harris, Pelosi, and Speier appointments.

Dunning and Hsieh had painted a dire picture of our finances at the last meeting. We still need help to make event a success. Thank you to those who are putting tables together for the March 8 fundraiser. We need to aim for 100% participation from every member here.

Event is co-hosted by Mayor Ed Lee. Willie Brown is MC. Nancy Pelosi is our special guest.

- b) **Voter Registration** (Trevor McNeil) A few new citizens' activities. If anyone here has flexibility, you should help with this. It is such a wonderful activity. Targeting precincts in SF with a low amount of people that vote.
- c) **Club Chartering** (Leah Pimentel) Harvey Milk club submitted all its documents for re-chartering.

M/S/C (Rosenthal/Dorsey) to approve charter of Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club.

Feinstein abstained.

Pimentel circulated a sign up sheet to join sub-committee for club chartering outreach.

Guest from audience noticed that no longer are the clubs on the website linkable. Dorsey took note.

Nancy Crowley was elected President of Westside Democratic Club.

DCCC member Weiner left at 7:34 pm.

- d) **Communications** (Matt Dorsey) Middle of next month – see newly re-written bylaws. See lead time on noticing. That will be resolved. How to word the audio recording piece will be decided.
Kelly had a question about the by-laws and she raised issue of election of officers. Smith said currently it says officers are in place until following election of members. Kelly sees need for by-laws change if want election in two years.
- e) **Treasurer** (Tom Hsieh) See balance sheet he passed out. Last month we had a negative working capital of \$16,000. Because of hard work of many of you, we now have \$22,000 in positive capital. As of January 31, 2013, we have \$3,200 in State account and \$541 in Federal account. We are getting stronger by the day. With the leadership of our chair, we have a tremendous event set for March 8th. Encourage all of you to make your calls and write your checks. Looking for 100% participation from all DCCC members. This event is for all of us. Helps us keep our great Executive Director and pay the rent. We received an in-kind donation from the Hatchery – Chris Gruwell is giving us free rent, saving us \$12,000 per year. 645 Harrison at 2nd. Office manager is Susan Pelosi. Thank you for your support on all efforts toward March 8. This event will be sold out shortly.

Jung: Hergenraeder has been persistent on following up on all leads.

- f) **Finance** (Zoe Dunning) Commitments for the March 8th event include: \$150 per ticket. \$1500 per table. We have \$50,000 in hand for the breakfast.

We had a retreat at the Laborers' Local. It went well. Thank you to those who turned out. We discussed what we thought was going well; what needs improvement; we did break-outs and discussed club outreach, DCCC engagement and finance and fundraising.

She will draft a strategic plan based on this.

Re-energize the Presidents' Club; creating sub-committees; having two big events per year, etc.

Hsieh commented that he struggled with giving up 5 hours on a Saturday, but is glad he did and commended Dunning on a well-run meeting. When we polled all the members – registration came up as number one; endorsements came second and at the bottom were resolutions. I know we spend a lot of time on resolutions, but to a member, that was the bottom of the priorities. Registration is absolutely a core mission.

Kelly commented that registration is the lifeblood and then educating and getting out the vote.

DeJesus commented that it was well-done and well-organized.

Dorsey commended Dunning for a job well-done.

Anderson commented about connecting with our chartered clubs.

Jung found the history on the DCCC fascinating. Thank you to Smith. There is a book there.

Rosenthal – how 'bout a page on the website?

Rosenthal is hosting a phone bank at her law firm the following day for the fundraiser.

g) **Executive Director** (Ally Hergenraeder) Please sign up for phone banking.

Discussed 4 areas of focus: 1) Fundraising;

2) DCCC engagement;

3) Voter Registration; and

4) Education.

We have leadership for all these committees except DCCC member engagement.

Kelly volunteered.

Thanked all those making calls to fundraise (get list from Ally).

We hope to have two extra months of DCCC's baseline costs.

Voter Reg holding steady with 67% of Democratic signups.

Club communication: we are doing more outreach. Working to coordinate with first time voters.

Pimental and Jung have visited clubs, which is appreciated. We'd like to invite the Presidents to come to the next meeting.

CCSF now has a chartered club with 15 members. We registered 20 people on campus. SFSU president is here tonight. USF – we are looking for a president.

Hastings – we have a president and membership.

6. **Resolution: Gun Violence** (Rosenthal)

DCCC member Migden left at 7:58 pm.

She is outraged and appalled at the lack of regulation of guns and ammunition. Was glad about Senator Feinstein's resolution. She was pleased to see that Ting is working

on 2 pieces. One is genius that requires liability insurance for owning a gun plus tax incentives for gun buy-backs.

Leno is working with Steinberg on legislation about threats to public safety.

Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence leader urges people to give positive feedback to your supportive legislators. Kelly seconded this sentiment. Note that "our legislators" are taking the lead on this.

Richard Hansen spoke about the East Bay Express article "Guns Death and Money." Liability insurance is discussed.

Susan Pfeifer spoke about Senator Yee introducing a ban on sale of violent video games. It was struck down, but our leaders were ahead of the curve. She called Feinstein's office to give positive feedback about her gun control legislation and was told this was valuable.

Broder says that the Senator appreciates all the work done on this resolution. Kudos to Rosenthal.

Broder gave background on senior Senator's decision to abstain from most motions: On any resolution that calls upon federal action calls for him to abstain so that the Senator is free to act as needed. Not that there is not full appreciation for this. The Senator will abstain on this.

Cohen co-sponsored legislation with the Mayor re: ordinance that strengthens controls on the selling of hollow-point bullets. Requires that a vendor that sells more than 500 rounds notify the SFPD. These two ordinances have been adopted by an Assemblymember.

Rizzo noted that our legislators are getting death threats. One who threatened Yee was arrested and bombs were found in his house.

Katz commented that specific wording is needed on resolutions. This cries out for support at convention. Can't reference specific legislation in the resolution. (Rosenthal agreed to put in proper format for submission to convention.)

Avalos stated that he will support Cohen's legislation. BOS will vote to divest from gun manufacturers. He will introduce legislation that removes incentive for police officers to join the NRA.

Smith will support this because it supports moderate gun control regulation. Otherwise would be a violation of 2nd amendment such as hand-gun control.

March 12 is the deadline for submitting a resolution. Kelly asked if there was a way we can pass it now to make it conform. Rosenthal can amend. Katz will work with Rosenthal

M/S/C (Katz/Rosenthal) to take resolution as is and move to call upon Rosenthal to come up with a version to be submitted to State convention that will comport with their requirements. Feinstein abstained and voiced appreciation for the resolution and the support that the resolution expressed.

Hilary Crosby, from the floor, stated there will be over 50 resolutions. The resolutions committee will smooth things out. What is important is that our counties show their support for limiting gun violence.

7. **Resolution: DISCLOSE Act** (Associate member Eisen/Kelly, McNeil, Dorsey)
Eisen: We will make sure the top 3 funders of political ads will be displayed prominently.

M/S/C (Hsieh/Levitan) Feinstein abstained.

8. **Resolution: District 4 Supervisorial Appointment** (Rosenthal, Dwyer, Pimentel)
Rosenthal expressed congratulations to Mayor Lee for his appointment of Katy Tang to replace Carmen Chu on the BOS. She thanked BOS members with children for championing the needs of families. She put this resolution together because she noticed that there are no mothers in the top 18 elected positions of city government. She noticed that friends with children were leaving political life; families are leaving SF in droves.

This was not intended to offend fathers and non-mothers. She has noticed many things: middle class women of her generation are led to believe that women can have it all. That is not true. It seems that for straight couples, mothering seems to be a full-time job; fathering a part-time job. Women are not attaining positions of power because they are dropping out of the leadership track. She contends that society needs to change. Employers need to support change; support for families needs to change. We need subsidized universal childcare, extended parental leave, flexible work hours and telecommuting policies. Society needs to expect that fathers will change, too.

She was hoping the Mayor might help. A mother on the BOS could serve as an inspiration to other mothers struggling with their own work-life balance. More importantly, a mother on the board would bring her experience to city government. To write the laws that will help working families. To change society to make it easier for women to have fulfilling careers and home lives.

Rosenthal did not intend to offend the Asian community. Nor was she advocating for any particular person.

Rosenthal withdrew the resolution from consideration and is glad for the conversation this resolution sparked.

Hsieh commented that Rosenthal raised a level of seriousness and complexity. He was 100% on board with the resolution until he got to the last paragraph. He hoped it would contain understanding of Asian American issues and their contribution to our community. After over 100 years, we had our first Asian American mayor and only 25 years ago was there an Asian American on the board of supervisors (his father) and that was because Mayor Feinstein appointed him. Population of D4 is over 50% Asian American. He hopes that as people advocate for the needs of their own community, take into consideration that we have district elections now. As an Asian American community elected to this body for 12 years, it has taken 164 years for us to get here.

Pimentel and Dwyer spoke in support of the resolution. Dwyer is a mother and a resident of District 4.

Katz pointed out that we have had a number of women on the BOS who were mothers.

Anderson commented, "None of us questions the need for someone to advocate for him- or herself." It is difficult to mainstream back into the workplace after taking time off to raise children. Women need help to get off the Mommy track and back on track. There are many talented mothers with great skills who want a chance to serve. If a mother feels she must advocate for herself, then we should support her in that endeavor.

DeJesus pointed out that she appreciates constructive criticism.

9. Resolution: Social Security (Kelly)

Disagrees that Social Security should be discussed as a part of the deficit discussion.

Katz offered that it be submitted to State's Resolution Committee.

Smith will vote no because it is fiscally irresponsible. The system cannot be maintained at the same level of benefits as when the system was first set up. Will need to cut benefits, or have a means test, or raise age eligibility.

Kelly said that anything over \$113,000 is not taxed for social security. "Scrap the cap."

M/S/C (Kelly/McNeil) Feinstein and Anderson abstained. Smith voted against.

10. Resolution: Proclamation that requests President to award Medal of Freedom posthumously to organizer Fred Ross, Sr. (Katz, Kelly, Ammiano, Cohen, Harris, DeJesus, Avalos, Dorsey)

Broder noted that according to Fred Ross, Jr., his father's last campaign was to work on Feinstein's behalf regarding the recall election. Both CA senators are signing the same letter to go to the President.

M/S/C (Kelly/Cohen) Unanimous.

11. New Business

There was no new business.

12. Adjournment

M/S/C (Rosenthal/Anderson) Adjourned at 8:51 pm.

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

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