

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California
Milton Marks Auditorium
Wednesday, April 22, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 7:10 pm

Chair: Mary Jung. Members: Kat Anderson, Joshua Arce, David Campos, Malia Cohen, Petra DeJesus, Matt Dorsey, Bevan Dufty, Zoe Dunning, Kelly Dwyer, Bill Fazio, Tom Hsieh, Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman, Trevor McNeil (8:28 pm), Leah Pimentel, Rebecca Prozan, Alix Rosenthal (7:20 pm), Arlo Hale Smith, Francis Tsang, and Scott Wiener (8:13 pm). Ex-Officio Members: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (7:12 pm); U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier; Attorney General Kamala Harris; Board of Equalization Member Fiona Ma; State Senator Mark Leno; Assemblymember Phil Ting; and Assemblymember David Chiu.

Late arrival with Proxy: Trevor McNeil (proxy Pimentel) and Scott Wiener (proxy Dorsey).

Absent with proxy: Carole Migden (proxy Mandelman).

Excused: Meagan Levitan

Absent: Eric Mar.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

(Kelly/Dwyer) M/S to add items 8, 9, 10, and 11.

(Hsieh/Anderson) M/S to separate the four items.

Item 8 Hansen resolution (Kelly/Dorsey) M/S/C to add to agenda. Approved by acclamation.

Item 9 Medicare 50 resolution (Kelly/Mandelman) M/S/C to add to agenda. Approved by acclamation.

Item 10 Racial Justice resolution (Dwyer/De Jesus) M/S to add to agenda. Member Hsieh commented that the 72-hour notice was added to the by-laws to give members a chance to put something very important before the members in less than 10 days, allowing members to hear from all sides of an

issue and to make thoughtful choices based on what is presented to them. The Police Officers Association had only 48 hours to respond to this resolution, which did not give the members time to prepare a presentation. He would support adding this to next month's agenda.

Member Dwyer made the counterpoint that this Committee always hears late resolutions, and she believes this is a pressing issue, particularly since she wants it to be discussed at the CDP convention.

The motion failed on a roll call vote:

15 voted "No": Anderson, Arce, Cohen, Dorsey, Dunning, Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, McNeil, Pimentel, Smith, Tsang, Wiener, Harris, Ma.

8 voted "Yes": Campos, DeJesus, Dufty, Dwyer, Kelly, Mandelman, Migden, Prozan.

6 abstained: Feinstein, Pelosi, Speier, Leno, Ting, Chiu.

Item 10 Ellis Act resolution (Kelly/Dunning) M/S/C to add to agenda.

Approved by acclamation.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

(Kelly/Cohen) DCCC's Regular Meetings of February 25 and March 25, 2015 were approved by acclamation.

4. Early endorsement for Mayor Lee for the November 2015 election

Member Hsieh introduced Mayor Ed Lee, who started his career as a civil rights attorney. Mayor Lee commented that he felt privileged to serve San Francisco. He stated that unemployment is now below 3.6%. He honored veterans and opportunities for all at City College. He discussed housing, transportation, pension reform and the revitalization of mid-Market. He has an aggressive agenda for building 30,000 units of new housing. There are new developments at Lennar, Visitation Valley and Mission Bay. He is working with Senator Leno on reform of the Ellis Act. He strives to work with everyone in the City and to provide unity. He continues his open door policy. He is a regional mayor that understands we are an international city. He will continue to be forward-thinking, innovative and compassionate. He is humbled by the effort to consider an early endorsement.

(Hsieh/Anderson) M/S/C to early endorse Edwin M. Lee for Mayor.

Member Campos commented on process. There is a date by which candidates can file for the office of Mayor and he believes the process should have the

opportunity to run its course. Therefore, he will vote no on the early endorsement.

Member Mandelman stated 2 problems with the early endorsement: 1) he cannot remember one in ten years other than for Mayor Brown; and 2) If we go down this path of endorsing people before the filing deadline, the Democratic Party should support Democrats that are doing a good job. He is in a conundrum and he may abstain.

Member Kelly stated a problem with the timing - not with the person. She was pleased that the Mayor came to her union about an early endorsement. Her union will vote on an early endorsement in late May. We should allow that open time for people to put their names in.

Member Dorsey stated that he will support the Mayor and vote for his early endorsement. We do have questionnaires and that is an important public document. We ask that the Mayor fill out the questionnaire.

Senator Leno's proxy, Keith Baraka, stated that the senator wants to support the Democratic process and feels an early endorsement won't allow other candidates to be considered, so he will vote "no."

Member DeJesus would like to know all the players before making a decision. This feels somewhat un-Democratic. The Mission community was ground zero for evictions. The alarm was raised and ignored for a long time. By the time the Mayor reached out, it was too little too late.

Member Arce stated he worked with Avalos on mandatory local hire law and member Dufty was the critical vote to get that through. Mayor Lee has worked hard to support that law. Members of Local 261 are here to support. Lee wanted to work on it as if he implemented it and make sure it's a success. Now, five years later, we have the nation's strongest and most successful local hire law in the country. We look forward to expanding local hire into other sectors. Arce wants to vote for Mayor Lee tonight.

Senator Feinstein's proxy stated her support for an early endorsement.

Public comment on this item alone:

Patrick Conners noted that a large real estate lobby group was in Sacramento today.

Amy Farrah Weiss commented that she will run for Mayor. Born in Berkeley and has lived in the Bay Area all her life. She worked on Neighbors Developing Divisadero. She believes her city is in crisis and that solutions need to be co-created. She will not battle Mayor Lee and hopes he will not battle her. She urges us to support the Democratic process. She is a Democrat.

The motion passed 24-5. The Roll call vote is as follows:

24 voted “yes”: Anderson, Arce, Cohen, Dorsey, Dufty, Dunning, Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, McNeil, Migden, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Smith, Tsang, Wiener, Feinstein, Pelosi, Speier, Harris, Ma, Ting, Chiu.

5 voted “no”: Campos, DeJesus, Dwyer, Kelly, Leno.

1 abstained: Mandelman.

5. Presentation and Q&A with Supervisor Julie Christensen (District 3)

Supervisor Christensen has worked with large companies with pressing metrics, and has done private sector community work for over 20 years. Worked on making Coit Tower ADA accessible, worked for 11 years to get the North Beach Library built, supported extension of Central Subway. She got involved because she thought she could help to make her neighborhood better. Housing is in crisis in D3 – losing housing and not a lot of places to put more. Looking at ways to change rules to fit more housing in. Trying to keep Chinatown accessible to the working class. Visitors to D3 neighborhoods increase the population by almost twice on a daily basis. Her goal is to be a really good district supervisor. She has no other political aspirations.

Member Dufty commented that he first saw Christensen at the Planning Commission. She spoke about the Central Subway. He noted that she has been supportive about homeless issues. She was quick to suggest ideas that work and to provide her support. He thanked her.

Proxy Rothschild asked if it can happen in our lifetime to move the Central Subway further. Christensen advised about “SF Next Stop.” The needle has been moved. If we added North Beach and Fisherman’s Wharf stops to the project, ridership would increase exponentially.

Member Arce stated that he is a member of Local 261 and they adopted the Sustainable Communities Pledge (which he described). He asked the Supervisor if she has signed the pledge. She responded in the affirmative.

Chairwoman Jung asked if she supports rent control. She said she did.

Member Mandelman asked what her position on 8 Washington was. She responded that as a citizen she initially supported the project because of housing, transportation and jobs provided. As the project progressed and got pummeled to what it became, she was not supportive and had some concerns. She also now has ideas on how to work on our waterfront planning better. She is now part of an initiative to analyze projects before an RFP goes out. Pier 70 is an example of a design process that worked.

Member DeJesus asked about the revisions to Planning that would prevent citizens from getting involved in the process more. She provided a nuanced answer about citizen involvement in the planning process.

6. Public Comment

Bruce Agid spoke in support of the chartering of several new clubs and spotlighted the South Beach District 6 Democratic Club, Latinos Unidos and Progress Democratic Club.

Jo Elias Jackson, president of the African American Democratic Club, thanked the body for supporting its chartering.

Susan Pfeifer – Covered California. Announced a special open enrollment period through April 30. 74,789 people have taken advantage of the extended enrollment.

Chris Hite – with SF Public Defenders office. Spoke about the Racial Justice Committee. The 3 goals are accountability, transparency and bringing training to the 21st century. This is a public safety issue. Member Dufty asked if they have met with the POA. They responded they welcomed the opportunity to meet with Chief Suhr and the Police Commission but hadn't done so yet. They agreed to set up a meeting before the DCCC next meets.

Joel Engardio shared that the Progress Democratic Club is about forward movement, continuous improvement. Members Anderson and McNeil are also founding members. We want to connect people that are not connected to government. You can't have hope without progress.

David Cruise, SF Tech Dems president, stated that he is proud to be here today. Our industry includes people of all backgrounds.

A group stood up in support of the Mission Democratic Club and Latinos Unidos Democratic Club: Nancy Rock, Jolisa Hernandez, Maritsa Cholmondeley, Jackie Omotalado and Jess Montejano.

Jonathan Lyens invited folks to check out the FDR Democratic Club.

Paulina Maldonado (plus 3 members) spoke in support of the Latino Young Democrats of SF.

Brian Webster, a local organizer with several different groups commented that the RFP is out for 1950 Mission Street – 150 units of affordable housing. Brownie Mary Democratic Club is hosting an event at the CDP Convention.

Brenda Barrios of SEIU 1021 commented that there is a cover-up going on regarding the police department's racism. The POA is only about protecting its members. Do what's right.

Laura Clark from Grow SF commented about the housing crisis. This non-profit is part of a coalition to work on increasing housing stock for all income levels.

Laura Thompson, Eric Menard and Eric Lopez of the Homesharers of SF Democratic Club commented about the struggle many face to keep their homes.

Lynn Friedman is an AirBnB host. This helps because she lost her job. What keeps her going is that she takes in people in her guest room.

Katherine Hans Von Rotes Schiltzettel spoke in support of Mission Democratic Club.

Judge Daniel Flores thanked the body for endorsing his candidacy last year. He invited people to come see him in Dept 9 at 850 Harrison.

Public comment closed at 8:46 pm.

7. Reports

a) Chair (Jung). None.

b) Voter Registration (McNeil). Young Dems did a great job at Cesar Chavez parade.

- c) **Club Chartering** (Pimentel). 8 clubs are renewing and 6 new clubs are chartering. College Democrats sent in their paperwork first.

Club renewals: African American Democratic Club, Asian Pacific Democratic Club, College Democrats of SF, New Avenues Democratic Club, Richmond District Democratic Club, Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, Filipino American Democratic Club, and Potrero Hill Democratic Club.

New club charters: SF Tech Democratic Club, Latinos Unidos Democratic Club, Young Latinos Democratic Club, Progress Democratic Club, Homesharers Democratic Club, Mission Democratic Club.

(Pimentel/Dorsey) M/S/C to approve all clubs by acclamation. Senator Feinstein abstained.

- d) **Finance** (Dunning). June 2 fundraiser breakfast. Gavin Newsom guest of honor.

- e) **Treasurer** (Hsieh). Finance reports are in the packet.

- f) **Executive Director** (Medina). There is a preconvention delegate mixer on April 30.

- g) **CDP Region 6 Update** (Kelly). Shared info about being delegates for the 2016 election.

- 8. **Resolution: Honoring Shirley and Richard Hansen** (McNeil/Kelly/Dorsey) To honor these volunteers for their efforts. Kelly commented that she was going to award them with the Democrat of Year award at the CDP Convention for Region 6. Dorsey commented that they were honored by Speaker Pelosi. M/S/C by acclamation.

- 9. **Resolution: Medicare turns 50.** (Kelly/Arce) M/S/C by acclamation.

- 10. **Resolution:** Racial Justice – removed.

- 11. **Resolution: SB 364 amending the Ellis Act** (Kelly/Prozan/Chiu/Dunning/Arce)

(Dunning/Pimentel) Member Dunning offered a friendly amendment to acknowledge Board Member Julie Christensen for sponsoring a resolution at

the BOS supporting SB364. It was noted that this passed unanimously at the Board.

Member Wiener moved to add Mark Leno as the author.

M/S/C Friendly amendments accepted by acclamation and resolution approved by all, with the exception that Senator Feinstein abstained.

12. New Business

Member Dwyer wants to insure that Item 10 will be added to next month's agenda.

Member Mandelman asked that the body early endorse City Attorney Dennis Herrera, Treasurer Jose Cisneros and District Attorney George Gascon.

Proxy Rothschild remembered Jack Brooks, a great Democrat, who passed away this week. He was a great, generous man. Asked to adjourn in honor of Jack Brooks.

13. Adjournment at 9:02 pm in honor of Jack Brooks.

*Minutes respectfully submitted,
Kat Anderson
Recording Secretary*