

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California
Milton Marks Auditorium
Wednesday, June 17, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Minutes of June 17, 2015

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Josh Arce, David Campos (left at 8:49, proxy to Petra DeJesus), Malia Cohen (left early, proxy to Mawuli Tugbenyoh, then returned), Petra DeJesus, Zoe Dunning, Kelly Dwyer, Bill Fazio, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Hene Kelly, Eric Mar (arrived 7:10, left at 9:12, proxy to Hene Kelly), Trevor McNeil (left at 9:06, proxy to Leah Pimentel), Leah Pimentel, Alix Rosenthal, Francis Tsang, Scott Wiener (arrived 7:47), Senator Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder), Attorney General Kamala Harris (proxy Debbie Mesloh), Board of Equalization Member Fiona Ma (proxy Bill Barnes), Assemblyman Phil Ting (proxy Jason Wong), Assemblyman David Chiu (proxy Jen Kwart).

Excused with Proxy: Kat Anderson (proxy Mary Jung), Matt Dorsey (proxy Francis Tsang), Rafael Mandelman (proxy Kelly Dwyer), Rebecca Prozan (proxy Michael Maffei)

Excused: Bevan Dufty, Meagan Levitan, Carole Migden, Arlo Hale Smith, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, State Senator Mark Leno

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Moved by Hene Kelly to approve the agenda; seconded by Tom Hsieh.

Hsieh asked that the items be voted on separately to add them to the agenda.

Item No. 11 was added by the following roll call vote (23 Yes, 0 No):

Yes: Anderson, Arce, Campos, Cohen, DeJesus, Dorsey, Dunning, Dwyer, Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, Kelly, Mandelman, McNeil, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Tsang, Feinstein, Harris, Ma, Ting, Chiu.

No: None

Abstain: None

David Campos commented that this is the second time this issue is on the agenda and the SFDCCC should be addressing the issue of police reform.

Kelly reported she met with the POA and that another meeting was scheduled, but did not take place, because the regular meeting was moved up one week.

Petra DeJesus opined this item should automatically be on the agenda since it was heard once before.

Hsieh replied that the DCCC follows Roberts Rules of Order and he believed the resolution will eventually be heard by the members. He stated an additional 30 days would help complete the dialogue and the item can be heard at the July 22nd meeting.

Kelly Dwyer reported she met with the POA and completely changed the resolution. She agreed that the date change of the DCCC meeting left little time to meet again with the POA. She said Chief Greg Suhr supports the resolution and thought the new version was more laudatory.

Bill Barnes, proxy for Fiona Ma, stated we are supposed to be discussing the merits of adding the item to the agenda, not discussing it. He stated Ma plans to support the Black Lives Matter resolution.

Hsieh called the question. Mary Jung noted she appointed Hsieh as Parliamentarian in the absence of Arlo Hale Smith.

Item No. 12 was not added to the agenda by the following roll call vote (12 No, 7 Yes, 4 Abstain):

No: Anderson, Arce, Cohen, Dunning, Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, Pimentel, Prozan, Tsang, Ma, Chiu

Yes: Campos, DeJesus, Dorsey, Dwyer, Kelly, Mandelman, Rosenthal

Abstain: McNeil, Feinstein, Harris, Ting

Moved by Alix Rosenthal to accept the agenda with Item No. 11, and without Item No. 12; seconded by Hsieh.

The agenda was approved by the following vote (17 Yes, 6 no, 1 abstain):

Yes: Anderson, Arce, Cohen, Dunning, Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, McNeil, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Tsang, Feinstein, Harris, Ma, Ting, Chiu

No: Campos, DeJesus, Dwyer, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar

Abstain: Dorsey

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Discussion and possible action)

DeJesus stated she made many eloquent remarks at the last meeting and that they are not noted in the minutes. She asked if she could review any of the tapes from the last meeting so they could be added to the minutes.

Ally Medina, Executive Director, offered to reach out to some of the sources that appeared to be recording the meeting.

Rosenthal opined that minutes are not meant to capture complete remarks and that a generalized statement is acceptable.

Jung agreed that the minutes do not need to be word for word, but would entertain changes to the minutes. She asked members to forward any changes to her before the next noticing deadline and she would include the changes in the revised draft minutes of May 27, 2015.

George Broder, proxy for Dianne Feinstein, asked that the abstentions be included in the vote on Item No. 9 regarding the Mission Moratorium. Jung agreed to this change. (Senator Feinstein abstained on voting on Item No. 9 at the May 27, 2015, meeting.)

4. Public Comment

Jung stated that Medina would be the official timekeeper of public comment going forward.

Eric Norman, President of District 5 Democratic Club - Thank you for considering chartering our club. Please vote for us.

Shaun Haines, Secretary of the District 5 Democratic Club - Please vote to charter us.

Jay Cheng, President of the Asian Pacific Democratic Club - He is happy to see clubs such as the District 5 Democratic Club ask to be rechartered and hopes their charter will be renewed.

Frida Wahlin, representing "Our Family Coalition - Spoke in support of AB 959.

Rafael Solari, member of SF Bay Area Renters Federation - Regarding Item No. 10, asked that the language "preservation of neighborhood character" be changed because it contradicts the title. That language often means residents don't want affordable housing. He urged the committee to prioritize affordability over preserving neighborhood character.

Patrick Valentino, Vice President of District 6 Democratic Club - Spoke in support of Item No. 10.

Public Comment closed at 7:43 p.m.

5. Reports

- a) **Chair** - Jung reported the RFP for the Fall Election Slate Card went out to the SFDCCC vendor list, the SFDCCC members, and Chartered Clubs. The deadline for submitting proposals is July 31, 2015, and the proposals will be reviewed at the August endorsement interview meeting. She reminded members that the SFDCCC will vote to select the vendor before the endorsement votes are taken on August 12. She encouraged members and clubs to forward the RFP to any consultants who might be interested in the SFDCCC Slate Card.
- b) **Endorsements** - Rosenthal reported the SFDCCC will vote on remaining candidates and ballot measures on August 12th. Races still to be voted on include: Community College Board, Sheriff, District 3 Supervisor, and at least six ballot measures. The candidate and ballot measure interviews should be on August 8th from 10 am - 2 pm - or later if needed.

Scott Wiener arrived at 7:47 p.m.

- c) **Voter Registration** - Trevor McNeil reported Voter Registration is going well and asked members to let us know of any great opportunities for voter registration at public events.
- d) **Club Chartering** - Leah Pimentel moved that the SDFCCC vote to Recharter the following Democratic Clubs - Noe Valley Democratic Club, Willie B. Kennedy Democratic Club, San Francisco Young Democrats, District 6 South Beach Democratic Club, District 5 Democratic Club, Bernal Heights Democratic Club, and Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club; seconded by Hsieh.

Broder asked if any of the clubs being considered allow non-Democrats to be endorsed. Pimentel replied that Bernal Heights can endorse non-Democrats.

DeJesus opined the agenda should list the clubs asking for rechartering. Jung replied that clubs have never been listed. Wiener agreed. Kelly opined that listing them is difficult to do because of noticing deadlines and this has never been done in the past. She asked Leah to repeat the names of the clubs being considered.

Barnes, Dwyer, McNeil, and Malia Cohen asked clarifying questions about the status of the following clubs: Noe Valley, Alice, Richmond District Democratic Club, New Avenues Democratic Club, District 5 Democratic Club, and Young Black Democrats. Leah provided updates and stated there are now over 20 chartered clubs.

All the clubs were approved by acclamation. Feinstein abstained.

- e) **Finance** - Zoe Dunning reminded everyone to purchase their tickets for the Annual Breakfast on June 25th with Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom. She reported over \$100,000 has been committed.
- f) **Treasurer** - Hsieh reported the DCCC is financially sound and thanked Ms. Medina for her prudent spending habits.
- g) **Executive Director** - Medina provided an update of our summer activities, reporting that the Sue Bierman Internship Program has been launched with four paid interns and 10 high school fellows. The interns and fellows have registered over 300 Democrats this month and plan to register 300 more by the end of June. They will be working at Pride and the Ferry

Building. She asked members to come and register voters with our summer staff since they are already stretched thin.

Kelly asked about the Centennial Celebration. Medina agreed it was a good idea and also reported they will be marching with Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's contingent at Pride. She has also been busy with the fundraiser and thanked members Pimentel and Josh Arce for coming into the office and making phone calls.

- h) **CDP Region 6 Update** - Kelly reported the CDP is counting on the SFDCCC to help with phone banking for candidates outside of San Francisco. She reminded the Clubs that their documents for the pre-endorsement meetings need to be in by June 30th, to be handed in July 1st. Please use the correct form.

6. Resolution: Code of Conduct for the S.F. DCCC (Jung, Dunning, Dorsey, Anderson, McNeil, Pimentel and Hsieh). Resolution for a Code of Conduct for the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee to uphold high standards of behavior and professionalism; to affirm and respect the right of all members of the public to take part in our democratic process; and to mitigate disruptive, abusive and violent behavior at SFDCCC meetings.

Jung turned the gavel over to Dunning, First Vice Chair, so she could address this resolution. Jung summarized that the behavior of some of the members and audience was inappropriate and stated that no one should be afraid to voice their opinions and should not expect to be physically harassed. She asked the members to agree to the resolution which asks the SFDCCC to reaffirm "we will hold our members to the highest standards of behavior" and that the "SFDCCC will not tolerate disruptive, abusive, and violent behavior by members and members of the public." She reported that she found out recently that there are cameras throughout the building and we are recorded inside the meeting and within the state building common areas. She also stated the State Building contacted Ms. Medina and advised her that they will start charging the SFDCCC for any additional security costs needed for our meetings.

Jung moved the motion; seconded by Hsieh.

Wiener suggested these changes be made to the Policies & Procedures. Hsieh responded a two-thirds vote was needed to do this and could be done later.

DeJesus stated she found the entire resolution as disturbing and racist. She asked who was going to judge what is disruptive and noted Jung wanted to interrupt the meeting for clapping. She thought it was disrespectful that the audience members were being rushed through public comment. She said primal fears from audience members were expressed and felt the timing is bad and the resolution appears to be a backlash against the Mission District, but that Jung didn't hold the Asian American community to the same standard. She stated the resolution is wrong and retaliatory and asked the members to vote against this.

Pimentel stated it is not okay to put hands on members. There should be a code of conduct with respect to how people are handled.

Kelly recalled two meetings where audience members vilified SFDCCC members and only once did someone speak up - Trevor McNeil asked audience members not to hiss. She stated she was called a union buster and a racist. She agrees there should be a code of conduct, and also believes she can stand in the audience and say "shame on you" - that is her first amendment rights. She agrees on rewriting the Policies and Procedures, but feels the timing is wrong and this appears to be a slap in the face of the Mission and herself.

McNeil stated it was a very upsetting meeting, and recalled the audience was asked to quiet down in both meetings. He is going to support the amendment. Matt Dorsey had a lovely resolution on the agenda that was not heard because the audience members would not allow it. He would not vote on this if he thought it was against a particular community. He is not against Ms. Kelly or the Mission.

Campos announced he would be leaving before the vote, and would be tendering his proxy to DeJesus. He addressed Pimentel and said he hoped that if she was assaulted, that the incident would be investigated and pursued. Campos has dedicated his life to nonviolence and stated we all have to be responsible. He thought both sides were disrespectful and didn't want the Mission community to be disrespected. He agrees there should be a discussion on a code of conduct and that no one should feel unsafe at a meeting. He will vote against this, not because of decorum issues, but because of the timing of this being considered right after the Mission Moratorium vote.

Bill Fazio stated that upon first review, he had no problem with the resolution. He does hear what DeJesus and Campos had to say, but thinks the Chair had the last meeting under control. He said he could see why this resolution appears to target a particular community, but that it's not necessarily so. He said this resolution does seem like one of those feel good laws and it isn't necessary. If the meetings do get out of hand, we can have law enforcement step in.

Hsieh said he respects the opinions of the speakers so far, but emphasized the resolution speaks to the conduct of SFDCCC members, too. He stated he has been on the SFDCCC for 15 years and has never seen the SFDCCC members speak out of turn like they did at the last meeting. He thought the members need to pull ourselves into a code of conduct that we can all agree to. The intent is not to squelch voices or target communities or individuals, but is about holding ourselves to behaving in a professional manner so everyone can be heard fairly and respectfully. He reminded everyone that the tipping point on why we are having this discussion is because member Pimentel was physically assaulted. It is reasonable to have this discussion so this doesn't happen again.

Barnes stated he served on the SFDCCC for six years and we often debated and took tough votes. He noted Ma's proxy didn't feel safe after the last meeting. He observed that the SFDCCC has become more divisive since more members of the Board of Supervisors (BOS) are on the SFDCCC. He found it frustrating that there is a debate around a resolution to be civil. As an African-American, he is excited there are more African-Americans on the body. Ma will be voting in favor of the resolution.

Dwyer told Pimentel she was sorry she was physically hurt. She recalled she heard people screaming ridiculous things to Wiener and felt bad these incidents occurred after the meeting. She recalled 100 people showing up when she and member Kelly introduced a conflict of interest agenda item. She also stated she didn't feel recognized by the Chair and went to the front of the stage to make her comments.

Broder urged Campos and DeJesus to abstain from this vote and not vote against it - that the resolution covers member behavior. He has been called homophobic. The resolution is timely and words do matter. He asked the members to vote for this.

Wiener stated he will support the resolution. He said what happened at the meeting was not acceptable, and the behavior went beyond passion. He has been to many meetings that get uncomfortable, but this was beyond what was acceptable. It was just a small minority that were abusive and engaged in bullying behavior. Members are interrupting each other more and more - whether it's speaking under your breath, shouting, or making faces when others have been recognized for their right to speak. Everyone has a right to speak without being interrupted and we are here to listen.

Rosenthal associated herself with Wiener's remarks, reiterating that the pounding has gotten worse over the past year. She is not attributing this to one side or another.

Mawuli Tugbenyoh, proxy for Malia Cohen, remarked about the appropriateness of timing, noting there is a resolution regarding Black Lives Matter this month which now allows us the opportunity to support this while we couldn't before.

Eric Mar stated he felt bad about those who were abused at the last meeting, but he was going to vote against the resolution. There is a huge race and class divide in the community and on this body. People are belligerent on both sides. It is shameful that those with power are not helping those being pushed out. He disagreed with silencing and chilling those trying to protect their survival.

Before the vote, Hsieh offered an amendment to add a phrase to the last paragraph, so that the resolution reads: THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the SFDCCC will not tolerate disruptive, abusive and violent behavior by members and members of the public during our meetings and take every precaution and action to mitigate such behavior; and it is the intent of the SFDCCC that this Code of Conduct resolution will be added to the Policies and Procedures Manual of the SFDCCC. Seconded by Pimentel.

The amendment passed with the following vote (18 Yes, 5 No, 2 Abstain):

Yes: Anderson, Arce, Cohen, Dunning, Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, McNeil, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Tsang, Wiener, Feinstein, Harris, Ma, Ting, Chiu.

No: Campos, DeJesus, Dwyer, Kelly, Mar

Abstain: Dorsey, Mandelman

The vote was then taken to pass the resolution as amended. The resolution passed with the following vote (17 Yes, 6 No, 2 Abstain):

Yes: Anderson, Arce, Cohen, Dunning, Hsieh, Jung, McNeil, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Tsang, Wiener, Feinstein, Harris, Ma, Ting, Chiu.

No: Campos, DeJesus, Dwyer, Fazio, Kelly, Mar

Abstain: Dorsey, Mandelman

Dunning tendered the gavel back to the Chair.

Campos left the meeting at 8:49 p.m. and gave his proxy to DeJesus.

- 7. Resolution: AB 959** (Dunning). Resolution to support AB 959, introduced by Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco), to require state agencies that provide health and human services to collect voluntarily-provided information about sexual orientation and gender identity among other types of demographic data collected to ensure that California public policy meets the needs of LGBT communities.

Dunning spoke about the importance of giving visibility to the LGBT community by collecting data that will be used to ensure resources and programs are helping the community.

Moved by Dunning to pass the resolution; seconded by Fazio.

Jen Kwart, proxy for David Chiu, noted the data collection is voluntary and will help allocate resources. She stated that the two LGBT Democratic Clubs - Alice and Harvey Milk, are both supporting this bill. Previous legislative attempts have stalled and it is important to have the Democratic Party on record.

Rosenthal asked if the collection of personally identified information allowed could it be used for nefarious purposes? Kwart replied that the bill instructs agencies already collecting information to collect information on sexual orientation and has the same protections for ethnicity as well.

Kelly asked that her name be added as a supporter of this resolution.

A vote was called and the resolution passed by acclamation. There were no abstentions.

- 8. Resolution: Black Lives Matter (Kelly).** Resolution to support efforts by the Black Lives Matter movement to affirm equal justice under the law and to end racism in all its forms; to promote the continuing dialogue among police and communities; and to work toward creating a national model in San Francisco for community policing and thoughtful programs to achieve the aforementioned aims.

Kelly feels passionately about this and notes it is similar to a resolution passed by the California Teachers Association, the SF Labor Council, the United Educators of SF, and the California Federation of Teachers. She asked that there be one word change in the last “Whereas” since her latest version had the correct language, but it was not the version included in the agenda package that was distributed. Jung stated she and Dorsey were made aware of this error and the correct copy is in front of everyone.

Moved by Kelly to pass the resolution; seconded by Fazio.

Cohen asked if there was a national model. Kelly replied she is working with the SFPOA and looking at what our Police Department is doing in communities. Cohen asked if they are working on a local level, hoping this makes it to the national level? Kelly replied in the affirmative. Cohen asked who is working on it. Kelly replied the Sheriff and the National Labor Council. Cohen noted the co-sponsorship spoke to the issue of the privilege of white people designing a model with very little black leadership involved. She was not asked for an opinion, nor was Pimentel. Did you talk to Officers for Justice and the NAACP? Dwyer, noting she is a co-sponsor of the resolution, responded with the names of a couple of black leaders helping to steer this. She cited other law enforcement to give it more clout. Cohen thanked Dwyer for her thoughtful response. She didn’t want to make any assumptions.

Rosenthal called the question.

The resolution was approved by acclamation. Feinstein abstained.

9. Resolution: Rent Control (Dwyer). Resolution to strengthen rent control and protections from unfair evictions in San Francisco by updating state and local law to extend rent control to rental apartments built since June 1979 and to single-family homes.

Dwyer stated the SFDCCC does not pass legislation, but wanted us to show support for this idea to expand rent control to buildings built since 1979 and to single-family homes. This would show the Democratic Party recognizes that strengthening rent control and protections for tenants is necessary. She cited her own personal example where her rent was raised over \$1,000 a month in a single-family home.

Moved by Dwyer to pass the resolution; seconded by Rosenthal.

Hsieh offered an amendment to add the following words: THEREFORE, be it resolved that the San Francisco Democratic Party supports strengthening rent control and protections from unfair evictions by requesting that the Board of Supervisors study the feasibility and legality of updating state and local law to extend rent control in San Francisco to rental apartments built since June 1979 and to single-family homes. Seconded by Pimentel.

Hsieh noted the DCCC does not have the resources to do a meaningful study, but that the BOS does.

Mar left the meeting at 9:12 p.m. and gave his proxy to Kelly.

Arce spoke as a cosponsor. He described how he and other community leaders went to the Mayor to discuss the issue. Arce expressed his support for the resolution as well as the amendment, noting that as a renter who has been protected by rent control, he understands its importance.

Fazio associated himself with Arce's remarks and said he doesn't feel the amendment waters the resolution down. He asked Dwyer for her opinion on whether or not she saw it as a request to the BOS to make some decisions.

Dwyer responded that she thought the amendment was fine, but wanted the record to show that we support this.

Cohen opined it is not just the BOS, but also state lawmakers who would have legislative authority over this.

Wiener expressed his frustration when the BOS goes on record supporting Ellis Act reform, and then the State Legislature does nothing about it.

Cohen asked for a motion to amend the amendment.

Hsieh offered to withdraw his amendment and resubmit it with the following new wording: THEREFORE, be it resolved that the San Francisco Democratic Party supports strengthening rent control and protections from unfair evictions by requesting that the Board of Supervisors, **the State Assembly, and the State Senate** study the feasibility and legality of updating state and local law to extend rent control in San Francisco to rental apartments built since June 1979 and to single-family homes. Seconded by Cohen. Dwyer agreed to accept the amendment to the amendment to her resolution.

The resolution passed as amended with the following vote (22 Yes, 3 Abstain):

Yes: Anderson, Arce, Campos, Cohen, DeJesus, Dunning, Dwyer, Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, McNeil, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Tsang, Wiener, Harris, Ma, Chiu

Abstain: Dorsey, Feinstein, Ting

Dwyer asked how Dorsey could abstain when he is a co-sponsor? Jung replied that in his absence, he most likely didn't give instructions on how to vote if the resolution was amended. She informed the members that Dorsey can change his vote at the next meeting - which is allowed because it doesn't change the outcome of the vote.

10. Resolution: Affordable Housing and Preservation of Neighborhood Character (Jung, Dunning, Anderson, McNeil, Pimentel, Hsieh and Dorsey). Resolution to support affordable housing development and to preserve neighborhood character in San Francisco through local funding for land acquisition, community-based nonprofits, and down-payment assistance; and for expanded advocacy for more federal and state funding to accomplish these aims.

Arce spoke as a cosponsor. He described how a community group went to the Mayor to advocate for more money for the Mission and after some research, were told there would be \$50 million more allocated specifically for the Mission. As a result, the resolution should be changed to reflect that the proposed \$250 million Housing Bond is now \$300 million.

Arce moved that the DCCC pass the resolution with this small change; seconded by Hsieh.

DeJesus said the resolution doesn't speak to specifics and that it is too little, too late. She described this as a CYA measure to feel better about voting down the Mission Moratorium last month. She disagrees with the motion and stated it has no teeth.

Wiener replied he respects DeJesus' comment, but totally disagrees - that \$50 million to buy property in the Mission for housing is significant.

DeJesus asked for a roll call.

The resolution passed with the following vote (20 Yes, 2 No, 3 Abstain):

Yes: Anderson, Arce, Cohen, Dorsey, Dunning, Dwyer, Fazio, Hsieh, Jung, Kelly, McNeil, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Tsang, Wiener, Harris, Ma, Ting, Chiu

No: Campos, DeJesus

Abstain: Mandelman, Mar, Feinstein

11. Resolution: Getting to Zero on HIV/AIDS in San Francisco (Dorsey) Resolution to support the Getting to Zero consortium's strategy to make San Francisco the first jurisdiction to get to zero on HIV/AIDS—meaning zero new HIV infections, zero stigma, and zero deaths—and to add a Getting to Zero question to the S.F. Democratic Party's candidate endorsement questionnaire.

In Dorsey's absence, Francis Tsang presented the resolution and moved that it be passed; seconded by Pimentel.

The following members asked to have their names added as co-sponsors: Fiona Ma, Bill Fazio, Josh Arce, Zoe Dunning, Phil Ting, and Eric Mar.

The resolution passed by acclamation. There were no abstentions.

12. Resolution: Racial Justice Committee's Plan for Police Reform. (Dwyer)

Resolution to support Racial Justice Committee's Plan for Police Reform, which includes training; annual reviews; assignment directives; independent investigations of police shootings; and new regulations for detaining youth and protecting those with mental disabilities. (Late item: agenda placement requires approval of no less than two-thirds of members present and voting, per S.F. DCCC Bylaws IV (4)(d).)

Item No. 12 was not approved to be heard at this meeting.

13. New Business

There was no new business.

14. Adjournment

Jung asked that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of the late, great labor and civil rights leader Leroy King.

Kelly supported this and stated she worked with him for 40 years.

Moved by Hsieh to adjourn in King's memory, seconded by Rosenthal.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.