

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA

Milton Marks Auditorium

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Draft Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order: 7: 13 p.m. Roll Call: 7:13 p.m.

Alioto, Ammiano (proxy Alysabeth Alexander), Baraka, Breed (proxy Conor Johnston), Burton (proxy Frances Hsieh), Campos, Cohen, De Jesus, Dufty (joined meeting 7:25 p.m.) Farrell (proxy Mary Jung), Fewer (proxy Kelly Groth), Gupta, Hsieh, Jung, Kim (proxy Paulina Maldonado), LaCroix, Mandelman, Mar (proxy Hene Kelly), Maxwell, Norton, Peskin (departed meeting 10:20 p.m. leaving proxy with Member Mandelman), Wiener (proxy Tom Hsieh), Wu. Absent: Yee.

Ex-officio members: Feinstein (proxy Jessica Glass), Speier (proxy Brian Larkin), Ma (proxy Kat Anderson), Leno (proxy Julius Turman), Ting (proxy Jason Wong), Chiu (proxy Jack Song). Absent: Pelosi

2. General Public Comment

Brigitte Davila – against D11 endorsement re-vote

Sheila Sexton – against D 11 endorsement re-vote

Tony Hoang – against D11 endorsement re-vote

Juan Avila – against Ahsha Safai

Wendy Aragon –for Kimberly Alvarenga, against a D11 endorsement re-vote

Susan Pfeiffer – updates from Hillary Clinton campaign

Jason Fried – against a D11 endorsement re-vote

Terrrie Frye – against a D11 endorsement re-vote

Ivy Lee - please support chartering new Rose Pak Democratic Club

Laurel Muniz – Latino Democratic Club in support of Kimberly Alvarenga against the D11 re-vote

Rosario Cervantes – against a D11 endorsement re-vote

Lisa Lee - against a D11 endorsement re-vote

Natalie Naylor – concerned about displacement by renters against a D11 endorsement re-vote

Jose Muniz – Latino Democratic Club and Bernal Heights Democratic Club, against a D11 endorsement re-vote

Claire Zvanski – consider re-opening D11 process to give it a more democratic airing.

Nadia Conrad- against a D11 endorsement re-vote

Carolyn Bowden – California Nurses Association made an early endorsement of Kimberly Alvarenga - against a D11 endorsement re-vote

Gabriel Haaland - SEIU 1021 for Kimberly Alvarenga.

Jonathan Meade – choice tonight is whether to serve the few or the many

Tai Mamoe – Endorse Kimberly Alvarenga

Josh Davidson – SEIU 1021. We are in the fight of our lives for our country but 75 activists are here to ask you not to do a bunch of procedural B.S. to harm our party. This is a waste of time.

Wendell Lin- please support chartering new Rose Pak Democratic Club

Ed Kincheley - SEIU 1021. Against a D11 endorsement re-vote

Cheryl Kalson - Support Kimberly Alvarenga. against a D11 endorsement re-vote

Paul Melbostad - Against a D11 endorsement re-vote

Mary Magee - Against a D11 endorsement re-vote
Nathaniel Owen – In favor of chartering Rose Pak Democratic Club and against a D11 endorsement vote.
Lito Sandoval - In favor of chartering Rose Pak Democratic Club and against a D11 endorsement vote.
Jen Low - In favor of chartering Rose Pak Democratic Club
Erin Gangitano - In favor of chartering Rose Pak Democratic Club
Queena Chen - In favor of chartering Rose Pak Democratic Club
Wnedy Chen - In favor of chartering Rose Pak Democratic Club
Brian Webster – Brownie Mary Democratic Club; In favor of chartering Rose Pak Democratic Club. In support of Prop. 64
Kim Alvarenga – Against a D11 re-endorsement vote.
Sue Vaughan – Sierra Club endorsed Kimberly Alvarenga. She is most suited to represent D11.
Linnette Alvarenga – Against a D11 re-endorsement vote.
Deepa Varma – SF Tenant’s Union. Against a D11 re-endorsement vote.
Sasha Cuttler – SEIU 1021. Against a D11 re-endorsement vote.
Joseph Bryant - SEIU 1021. Against a D11 re-endorsement vote.
Alisa Messer – AFT 2121. Against a D11 re-endorsement vote.
Denise Dorey – Against Prop. 64.
Conny Ford – SF Labor Council. Labor is divided Against a D11 e-endorsement vote.
Ken Tray – UESF - . Against a D11 -reendorsement vote.
Peter Gallotta – Harvey Milk Democratic Club In support of chartering Rose Pak Democratic Club. Against a D11 re-endorsement vote.
Frank Martin Del Campo - Against a D11 re-endorsement vote.
Patricia DeFonte - For a D11 re-endorsement vote.
Shona - Revisit Prop 64.
Gabriel Medina – Chicano Latino Caucus of the California Democratic Party. If you open up the D11 endorsement vote, the San Francisco Democratic Party has a problem with Latinos in San Francisco.
Lourdes Reboyo – San Francisco Rising Action Fund. For Kimberly Alvarenga.
Tami Bryant – Against a D11 re-endorsement vote.
Mel Flores – Excelsior District Improvement Association. In support of D11 re-endorsement vote.
Carolina Morales – Against a D11 re-endorsement vote.
Tracy Brown – President, Mission Democratic Club – Against a D11 re-endorsement vote.
Bobbi Lopez – In favor of chartering Rose Pak Democratic Club; In support of Kimberly Alvarenga.
Mary Harris – Irregularities in D11 Democratic Club voting. SF Democratic Party should help us and revisit endorsement.
Terry Valen – SF Rising Action Fund. In support of Kimberly Alvarenga.
Public comment closed 8:24 p.m.

Chair Wu asked to take Item 5e (Club Chartering) out of order in respect for Rose Pak.

5. (e) Reports: Club Chartering (Gupta).

Adjourn the meeting in memory of Rose Pak, by acclamation. M/S/C (Peskin/Alioto).

Member Peskin: Rose and I had a long complicated relationship. But at the end of the day, she did what she did and was driven to reverse centuries of racism and discrimination. I want to salute the young people and not so young people who have come together in the days after her passing and thank you for starting the Rose Pak Democratic Club.

Member Alioto: I went to college with Rose Pak. When I was President of the Board of Supervisors and we saw Rose come in we thought oh no, we have an issue.

Embarcadero Freeway was a huge issue after Loma Prieta. She did it with style and class and met with my dad because she didn’t like the way I was talking about the issue. SF

smoking ban was first ban in the US. When I banned it first time I lost it at the Board which I couldn't believe. That's because Rose came into the chambers smoking a cigar. When we won the smoking ban she called me up and congratulated me.

Member Campos: Rose Pak is special if she can get Angela Alioto and Aaron Peskin to agree on something. Rose was always thinking about the underdog. The person who was not having their voices heard. The Chinese-American community was her priority and she dedicated her life to that. But what was remarkable about Rose is that she was always asking me about the Latino community, the African American community, the LGBTQQ community. It's something that needs to be said. In her passing, people who are struggling in SF lost a champion. The way to honor her memory is to keep doing that work of fighting for the underdog.

Chair Wu: Rose was a mentor to me and I'm at a loss for words. The best legacy for her is to continue the fight for justice.

Vice-Chair Gupta: we received an application from the Rose Pak Democratic Club. According to our bylaws any organization may request chartering if it has supplied a roster of members and other required documents. They were timely in their correspondence.

Motion to charter Rose Pak Democratic Club. M/S/C (Gupta /Alioto) adopted unanimously by acclamation.

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda.

Member Ma (Anderson): We submitted a request to add an item to the agenda before 10 days before the meeting. It was not added when the agenda was sent out 9 days before the meeting. And we're concerned about that as it seems like a special request. Requesting clarification on what happened.

Member Peskin: There is nothing requiring the chair to accommodate that.

Member Jung: That's correct. Cindy and I had a conversation about that about two weeks ago. She wasn't sure if we could do this so I sent her item from my records. Pretty much if a member in good standing asked for something to be added to agenda. I know not all chairs did this but I did. I'm seconding the request.

Member Ma (Anderson): It's strong to show strong decisive action. It's important to weigh in on these races.

Chair Wu: It was my judgment that this was not a priority for the DCCC. I wanted to focus on voter registration and fundraising and building a fall program as fast as we could. Per the bylaws we are here and we will vote on whether to add it to the agenda.

Member Hsieh: You weren't hesitant to open up the endorsement for Judge when your friend Victor Hwang wanted to be endorsed.

Member Peskin: Stay professional.

Member Hsieh: I'll wait until you're done having your opinions. All members need to be treated fairly. Member Ma is a longtime Democratic leader in San Francisco. She asked the Chair to add this item to the agenda with plenty of time but it wasn't added.

Nobody is above one another here. We were all elected by Democrats in San Francisco. This process was left open because sometimes this body can't come to consensus.

We've always allowed those with the majority to prevail. Tonight all we're asking for is to let us have our process.

Member Campos: I wasn't planning on being here. Today is my birthday and I had plans many months ago. The reason I think it's important to be here – it's not about the D11 race. The reason the party shouldn't revisit this issue is the message it sends to the Latino community and the LGBT community. Please don't do this. You are sending a horrible message to a community that is under attack at the national level. Please do not reopen this vote tonight.

Member Peskin: I had the honor of being chair of this body in 2008 when we sent members of this body to make calls to win our country back, and that is what we should unite around now and always. This is not an easy thing. We can talk about Henderson/Hwang, what happened in 2011. Let's talk about the D11 race is dividing D11 and dividing this town, and I actually think what happened in this room on August 17 is right and expressed what is happening in this town. It's what happened at Labor. 15 voted no endorsement and 15 voted for Ahsha Safai. In a contentious race like this the right thing for San Francisco is for us to stay the course and stay out. It has divided D11 and has profound implications by communities of color. Let the people of D11 decide. We should stay out.

Member Baraka: I'm a regular firefighter who decided to become a member of the DCCC because I thought regular people should be involved in politics. I am a resident of D11 because I got evicted from the Castro. I was lucky to purchase a home in D11 and I'm happy there. Where was the outrage when we had an African American judge sitting in front of us. I think the process should be allowed to go on as Fiona Ma requested. I don't have to reiterate the things Member Hsieh said. I'm not here to be a mouthpiece for the Realtors or folks who own property. Even our own VP Joe Biden said one of the greatest things that keeps the middle class alive is home ownership. To paint Realtors and folks who own property with a broad brush is only hurting yourself. The conversation needs to be kept alive about home ownership. We should have this vote today. It's very Democratic.

Member Alioto: How is 15 – 15 a no-endorsement. It's undemocratic. When I was the President of the BOS I would never have allowed the disrespect of this body. Here's what I don't understand. Why wouldn't you be here for your candidate to be the #2 endorsed candidate?

Parliamentarian LaCroix: According to our rules a 15-15 split means no candidate gets endorsed. Second, to reconsider our previous decision that requires a motion to rescind our previous decision and should be on the agenda and properly noticed. That should be done prior to the matter that's before us today. In reviewing our bylaws and rules of order, our bylaws are super unclear.

Member De Jesus: the motion to rescind has to be made by a member of the prevailing side. The prevailing side is no endorsement.

Member Ma (Anderson): This was on the agenda. We have to be able to trust the word of the chair.

Member Mandelman: We need to talk about the relationship of the Democratic Party to realtors and homeownership. We need to talk about the displacement that is happening in San Francisco.

Member Hsieh: Are these comments germane.

Chair Wu: Conversation has already veered in this direction.

Member Mandelman: There are measures on the ballot to prevent the creation of affordable housing and to kick people out of their homes. Those are supported by the Realtors. It is not the job of the SF Democratic Party to do the Realtors job for them. A majority of the elected members of this body think Kimberly Alvarenga should be the endorsed candidates. Other members of this body aren't elected and voted for another candidate. I want to thank the Chair of the Party to help us avoid this disaster. I want to thank Kimberly Alvarenga for running for office.

Member Cohen: The point I want to make complements what member Alioto said. When you are a candidate in a ranked choice race, you want to get all the votes you can. Spending time here quibbling over endorsement, no endorsement, it is really about the field campaign. I'd like to move the question. But we have some more speeches that need to be made. We need to be consistent. Paul Henderson is an African American gay man and if you look at the minutes members were eloquent about the need to revisit that endorsement. Maybe we should consider a dual endorsement.

Member Ma (Kelly): I was Kimberly Alvarenga's teacher. She was an excellent student. Ahsha Safai is an old friend of mine. When we had an election, as District 6 representative for the Demcoratic Party, I said we had two excellent candidates and that is true today. I think it is really important and not to tear us apart. We stand for electing Democrats and helping this City grow.

Member Ammiano (Alexander): I would like to speak against the re-opening of the D11 endorsement. It is suspiciously close to the D11 Club's decision that we are reconsidering endorsement today. Considering how divisive this race is I am asking everyone to stay out.

Member De Jesus: Our rules basically say we have to respect the agenda.

Member Gupta: I'd like us to respect each other. There were some condescending approaches and tone. We had a democratic process on August 17 and I would urge everyone to stay with no-endorsement.

Ma (Anderson) move to reconsider possible endorsement in BOS D11 race. Hsieh seconds.

Member DeJesus: There was only one motion on the floor it was brought by a particular candidate and it failed. They want us to reconsider this then a member of the prevailing side has to move to rescind.

Member Hsieh: This is an appropriate process we're undertaking here. There was a notice sent out 10 days before this meeting. There was an appropriate motion and it was seconded. You're creating your own interpretation of Robert's Rules.

Member DeJesus: It's not on the agenda.

Member Hsieh: We will vote to put it on the agenda. Follow your bylaws.

Member Jung: My remarks are not meant to be disrespectful. The last week has been very difficult for members of our community. Member Ma was sure you'd add it to the agenda. You said you just needed to check the parliamentary procedure and gave it to Member LaCroix. There was enough time. We always took difficult votes like this and we always let everyone have their say.

Member Campos: To the extent that what we're being asked to do is reconsider a prior vote, irrespective of Roberts' Rules, there's another issue here. Even if you're able to move forward, there's a Brown Act issue here. The request by Member Ma doesn't have the word reconsideration. It's not clear that a reasonable person would know from looking at the agenda that what you're asking is to reconsider a prior vote.

I would ask the chair to deny the request in light of the language that was provided.

Member Baraka: What bizarro Democratic universe would deny a vote. That is not Democratic. I think it's important to vote on the issue. Let the vote happen and the issue be addressed.

Member Peskin: I'm not a lawyer but I play one on TV. Supervisor Campos has raised an interesting issue. A majority of the Board of Supervisors is also on this body, and so these meetings are noticed as BOS Meetings. As a result, we are subject to the Brown Act. Every member of the BOS minus Supervisor Yee, is represented here. I believe Member Campos has raised an absolutely legitimate point. I motion we table this matter. Chair Wu called for a vote on Member Peskin's motion.

Table discussion of endorsing in D11 Supervisor race (M/S/C) (Peskin/Ammiano).
Voting No: Alioto, Baraka, Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Hsieh, Jung, Wiener, Feinstein, Speier, Ma, Leno, Ting, Chiu. Yes: Ammiano, Burton, Campos, De Jesus, Dufty, Fewer, Gupta, Kim, LaCroix, Mandelman, Mar, Maxwell, Norton, Peskin, Wu.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes M/S/C (Peskin, LaCroix) by acclamation with additional corrections from Members Farrell, Ma and Feinstein.

5. Reports

a. Chair Wu asked members to join a subcommittee.

Member Hsieh: Did Member Ammiano resign by voice or letter to you.

Chair Wu: Member Ammiano intends to resign immediately following the November election.

Member Hsieh: I am worried that this body has been taken over by people who want to control the agenda so much that they are willing to run and resign and have an appointment made, taking a position away from a grass roots Democrat. How do we make our financing equitable when grass roots people have to run against people with decades of experience in San Francisco.

Member Ma (Alexander): How many times is a member allowed to use a proxy? [10]. I want to point out that many of our high electeds have not shown up. I want to commend member Alioto for being present.

Member Gupta: If people want to resign they have their reasons and those are personal. If Member Ammianno chooses to resign he should not be called a political pawn.

Member Alioto: If he steps down, then does the next highest vote getter get his seat?

Member Gupta: It's in the bylaws that the chair appoints.

b) Treasurer. (Ammianno/Alexander):

Member Jung: Is this slate card money? May we see the slate card? I had requested to be added to the Slate Card committee.

Member Hsieh: I asked to be added as well.

Chair Wu: I will forward you the information and consider you added to the committee.

c) Finance (De Jesus): We don't have money in the federal account and that's a problem. We need to raise money. We are having a fundraiser/debate watch party on October 9th in conjunction with Hillary campaign. We are talking about an early January fundraiser maybe a dinner. Looking for people to be on the committee to raise money.

Member Speier (Perkins): I'll match donations up to \$1,000. Campaigns run on money and parties run on money.

d) Voter Registration (Baraka): we've had three voter registration events at the Paramount.

f) Outreach (LaCroix): I am in the process of putting together an outreach plan for the DCCC as a way of setting goals to keep us accountable.

g) Executive Director (Mehis): I've been working closely with the E-Board and look forward to bringing this great party forward.

h) CDP Region 6 Update (Kelly): We have three delegates to the executive board from this body. There are caucus meetings in January and I will get the information to you.

6. Resolution to impose \$500 Campaign Contribution limit (DeJesus).

Member De Jesus: All local office races are limited to \$500 per contribution and our seats should be limited as well.

Member Cohen: This body is state sanctioned. How does this resolution tie us to the state.

Member DeJesus: Assemblymembers Ting and Chiu have already agreed to bring it to the Government code. We are governed by state statute. We have bylaws and we are asking the state to codify it as well.

Member Alioto: It's a legal issue and it's a matter of our own bylaws.

Member DeJesus: we already have rules and procedures to remove members.

Member Alioto: We can't go against state law. If you get it changed at the state level, then you can change your bylaws.

Member DeJesus: We are trying to change it both places.

Member Baraka: I'm not going to support this because I feel it's not binding or enforceable. I also think its unfair to regular guys who want to run for office at the grassroots level.

Member Ma (Anderson): Chairperson Ma very much wants to support getting grassroots folks elected. As much as we support this we feel this is poorly written and will be abstaining.

Member Hsieh: If we achieve the goal of changing our bylaws, only sitting members are bound by them. Because all the members turn over at the same time, we are all challengers and would not be subject to these rules. This is a completely advisory measure at this point. Might be more appropriate to refer this to a Bylaws committee to achieve campaign finance reform.

Chair Wu reminded the committee that no one has volunteered for the Bylaws committee.

Member Campos: We understand that ideally you want to codify bylaw changes in state law and it's important to do that. Ideally we want to change state law. This is not perfect but the reason why this is important is that for us to move the state and push them, we need to make the statement that this is needed. Some of us ran on pledging to have a \$500 limit. For us it's what we ran on, and it's important to deliver on that promise.

Member Jung: I just want to associate myself with Keith Baraka's remarks. This is probably my last time running. We had a lot of people, elected officials who had been on the ballot multiple times and barely ran campaigns, and they won. And others ran a lot of money and still didn't win. I don't think \$500 is the right limit.

Member Mar (Kelly): I am happy we took a stand on Citizen's United. I think this is a good idea and we should be able to do this in our bylaws. Taking that \$500 limit is a good thing.

Motion to support the resolution (Kim/Ammiano).

Member Gupta: The following clubs have supported the resolution: Noe Valley Democratic Club, Potrero Hill Democratic Club, San Francisco Tech Democrats, Richmond District Democratic Club, South Beach District 6 Democratic Club, Harvey Milk Democratic Club, FDR Democratic Club, Asian Pacific Democratic Club, Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, San Francisco Latino Democratic Club, RFK Democratic Club, College Democrats at SF State, Latino Young Democrats of San Francisco.

Member Speier (Perkins): If you want a change at the state level, you have to stand up and ask for a change. If you don't say it, it's not going to happen. There's got to be a point where we make a point about money. If not now, then when?

Member Baraka: I don't think it's appropriate for Supervisor Campos to mansplain Citizen's United to me. I don't think we should take a position for wealthy individuals to self-finance their campaigns. Why don't we set an overall cap of \$5,000? That would make it fair. When I take a contribution from my union, I'm taking it from a group that cares about the community.

Member Jung: When APDC said they supported the resolution, they were in agreement with Noe Valley Democratic Club who said they thought elected officials shouldn't hold seats on this body. I hesitate to say that as there are elected officials who truly do a lot of work for the party. I like the idea for the \$5,000 cap. I would do that in a minute. At least it's even all the way around.

Chair Wu called the question.

Voting Yes: Ammiano, Breed, Burton, Campos, Cohen, De Jesus, Dufty, Fewer, Gupta, Kim, LaCroix, Mandelman, Mar, Maxwell, Norton, Peskin, Wiener, Wu, Speier, Leno, Ting, Chiu. Abstain: Alioto, Baraka, Farrell, Hsieh, Jung, Feinstein, Ma.

7. New Business.

Member Maxwell asked to acknowledge the clubs present and to thank them for their support.

Member De Jesus: We have prop 64 on and it's caused a lot of concern among the growers.

Member Mar (Kelly): Other DCCC's have designated times for clubs to speak so we can hear all the things they're doing. Person working on outreach should work on that.

Member Ammiano (Alexander): wanted to support Member DeJesus' comments on crafting a resolution and asking the cannabis community to attend.

8. Adjournment.

Member Hsieh motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 10:30 p.m.