

# San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California  
Milton Marks Auditorium  
Wednesday, June 15, 2016

## Draft of Regular Meeting Minutes

### 1. Roll Call at 7:08 pm; Call to Order at 7:10 pm

Chair: Mary Jung. Members: Kat Anderson, Joshua Arce, David Campos, Malia Cohen (gave proxy to Bevan Dufty at 8:44 pm), Petra DeJesus, Matt Dorsey, Bevan Dufty, Zoe Dunning, Joel Engardio, Tom Hsieh, Hene Kelly, Meagan Levitan (arrived 7:43 pm), Rafael Mandelman, Eric Mar (proxy Wendy Aragon), Trevor McNeil, Marjan Philhour, Leah Pimentel, Rebecca Prozan (arrived 8:42 pm), Alix Rosenthal, Francis Tsang (arrived 7:45 pm), and Scott Wiener (arrived 7:51 pm).

Ex-Officio Members: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (proxy Jessica Glass); Board of Equalization Chair Fiona Ma (proxy Cally Wong); State Senator Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka); Assemblymembers Phil Ting (proxy Jason Wong) and David Chiu (proxy Jen Kwart).

Absent with proxy: Eric Mar (proxy Wendy Aragon).

Absent excused: U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier.

Absent: Bill Fazio, Carole Migden, U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

### 2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

M/S/C (Hene Kelly/Kat Anderson) to approve the 72-hour agenda with the addition of the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA) resolution (Josh Arce), and to move up the Voter Registration report by Trevor McNeil because of family matters.

M/S/C to divide the question (David Campos/Hene Kelly) and take two separate votes about whether to accept the resolution and to move up the Voter Registration report.

The motion to divide the question passed by a vote of: Yes 12, No 10, Abstain 2.

Yes: Campos, Cohen, DeJesus, Dorsey, Dufty, Dunning, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar, McNeil, Prozan, Leno.

No: Anderson, Arce, Engardio, Hsieh, Jung, Philhour, Pimentel, Rosenthal, Feinstein, Chiu.

Abstain: Ma, Ting.

M/S/C to add the Adult Use of Medical Marijuana resolution (Arce) to the 72-hour notice. The motion passed by a vote of: Yes 15, No 6, Abstain 3.

Yes: Anderson, Arce, Cohen, Dorsey, Dunning, Engardio, Hsieh, Jung, McNeil, Philhour, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Leno, Chiu.

No: Campos, DeJesus, Dufty, Kelly, Mandelman, Mar. Abstain: Feinstein, Ma, Ting.

M/S/C to move up Voter Registration report to accommodate Trevor McNeil's family issues. Approved by acclamation to move up report.

### **3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

M/S/C (Hene Kelly/Zoe Dunning) Minutes of the DCCC's meeting of May 25, 2016 approved with the following changes:

Petra DeJesus clarified that she does not have an illegal unit; she has a room in her garage. Rafael Mandelman clarified that he said "pursuing groundbreaking legislation." Mary Jung asked for the changes in writing and stated she will make the requested changes before posting the minutes.

- 4. Voter Registration report** – Trevor McNeil wants the new DCCC to know that there is a calendar of summer events that will reap great opportunities for voter registration. In the four years, there has been top two elections, so the case for being a Democrat has been tough, but SF has risen to the occasion and many new Democrats have been registered.

### **5. General Public Comment**

Michael Petrelis is an open government advocate who turned his camera on to videotape the audience and decried that the Castro rainbow flag is not at half-mast anymore, even though the vigil for Orlando was recent. He called upon leaders to reclaim the Harvey Milk Plaza.

Terrance Alan spoke about cannabis. Was on Entertainment Commission. He joined the cannabis movement and is a leader on the cannabis legalization task

force. San Francisco is the base for Prop 215. The new voter proposition needs help. AUMA revenue should be protected and used to support schools.

Donald Dewsnup expressed his concern about the turnover in DCCC membership which would result in nothing getting done to help the homeless and help the homeless register to vote. Not enough housing is being built and yet this body does not pass a policy statement. Thanked Jung for her time and service being chair of this body.

Sara Payan is a City resident and works for the Apothecarium. She addressed SB987 and AB2243 and the concern that taxation will raise prices.

Dominic Ripoli spoke about cannabis education. Cannabis is now half legal and half illegal. Total legalization is going to come.

David Goldman, Michael Koehn, and Bella Yousif combined their time to allow Goldman to speak longer. He urged opposition to SB987 and AB2243. The “tax” is really a fee. If AUMA passes, it’s even worse than these two pieces of legislation.

Elihu Hernandez spoke in opposition to AUMA.

Denise Dorey, from Central City Democrats, Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, and Axis of Love, spoke in opposition to AUMA. Helps her Lyme disease.

Shona Gocharau opposes AUMA. She is against jail time.

Bruce Agid, President of South Beach District 6 Democratic Club, thanked the members of the DCCC and Jung for their service to the Democratic Party.

Frank Malinaro – psychic Frank on TV. He is a healer. Cannabis helps people ingest food. AUMA is about greed. He worked on Prop 215. We don’t have lobbyists.

Otto Duffy spoke about cannabis.

3

Susan Bryan spoke for Central City Democrats in opposition to by-laws amendment.

Michael Nulty from Tenant Associations Coalition spoke in support of party unity.

Brian Webster supports AUMA and union cannabis. Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom, State Senator Mark Leno, Assemblyman David Chiu and the California Medical Association all support this. A vote of yes today is just a message to encourage the California Democratic party to pass AUMA.

David Giesen spoke against privatizing public space and reforming Prop 13.

Jon “Axis” Martinelli has used cannabis since he was 14. He helps people bake so they can go and eat medicine. He gets donations of cannabis and brownie mixes, etc., to help the poor. AUMA taxes should cover medical marijuana.

Tikisha Upshaw-Ong is a potential medical cannabis dispensary owner and the only African American woman to be approved in San Francisco. Opposes AUMA and taxes.

Sandra Bacon – Axis of Love and veterans group. She wants her veteran benefits and free medication. Vote no on AUMA.

Gilbert Canedo – Axis of Love and Disabled Veterans. Vote no on AUMA.

Lito Sandoval and the Latino Democratic Club honored Hene Kelly with a plaque. Spoke in memoriam for those killed in Orlando.

Rosario Cervantes spoke about the attack on women of color on the Reform Slate.

Frank Martin Del Campo spoke about the history of the Democratic Party as fighting for the working class.

Susan Pfeifer spoke about the DNC Convention in July and uniting to ensure a Democrat remains in the White House. There will be 5 HRC delegates including Zoe Dunning. Thanked Jung for her help securing the HRC campaign space. The San Francisco office will be the main office for Hillary Clinton in California. There will be a watch party for the convention, traditionally on

4

Thursday night. Made arrangements with the Holiday Inn on Van Ness and can reserve the entire restaurant. She asks that this get planned, and she will be out of town for the Convention.

Next Wednesday is the New Citizen's swearing in ceremony at the Paramount in Oakland. She will be there and she encourages people to come out and volunteer. She hopes the DCCC will take the lead on voter registration.

Let her know if you are interested in going to a battleground state. HRC will do visibility and will have a booth at Pride.

Peter Gallotta, from the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, supports that the DCCC make a statement on the shootings in Orlando to honor the dead and to take action against violence and Islamophobia. After a brief discussion, the members decided the best way to do this would be to pass a resolution during New Business. Alix Rosenthal offered to work with Gallotta on a resolution during the meeting.

Public comment closed at 8:31 pm.

## **6. Reports**

a) **Chair** (Jung). Report on DCCC activities for the summer, staffing and voter registration plans, and transitioning of records and other pertinent materials and documents.

The next meeting is on July 20 at 7 pm in this building where members will be sworn in. This is ceremonial - we all are sworn in individually when we turn in our DCCC candidate papers. Everybody is invited to attend. Right now, we are in transition – we have staffing, 4 interns (Keenan Patterson, Selina Xie, Evan Gothelf, Elaine Xie), and 10 high school fellows. Adam Rey is our voter

registration assistant. Naeemah Charles left to work at Organizer and will go to Sacramento in the fall. Jung passed out volunteer sign-up sheets for voter registration. She recognized the DCCC staff and interns that were in the audience and thanked them for their hard work in the weeks and months to come. Jung also thanked the hard work of the Executive Committee. Forty-eight months is a long time and she thanked everyone for their service. Suggests that committees be set up in the future so that there are more hands to make light work.

b) **Voter Registration.** Report on voter registration efforts. (Report given earlier by McNeil)

c) **Club Chartering.** Leah Pimentel reported on chartering activities and review of rules going forward. Chartered and re-chartered over 60 clubs during this term. Raised over \$2,500 to pay for “Endorsement-palooza” - several highly successful coordinated endorsement meetings with the chartered clubs. Also created one questionnaire for the clubs and created the President’s Cabinet to share information and offered Club Treasurer trainings by professionals knowledgeable about election law and finance. None of these things existed before 2012.

d) **Finance.** Zoe Dunning reported on party finances. Overall, the party is in very strong financial shape. Thanked everyone – raised 160k to 180k annually to fund Executive Director, office expenses, and internship programs. Thanked the Chair and others for contributing to the party.

e) **Treasurer.** Tom Hsieh reported we are in a strong financial position. Chair is commended for putting together the money and the legal backing to produce a federal card. There will be cash on hand and full reports to incoming chair and treasurer.

f) **Corresponding Secretary.** Matt Dorsey stated he will transition to incoming committee whatever materials she has and will update the website.

g) **Recording Secretary.** Kat Anderson spoke about the minutes, transparency and the attendance sheet.

h) **CDP Region 6 Update.** Hene Kelly stated she continue her Regional Director duties to the CDP and she asked that we adjourn the meeting with thanks to the outgoing DCCC members for their service.

i) **Labor Committee.** Joshua Arce stated there was no report.

**7. Resolutions: Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA).** Discussion on resolution endorsing the Adult Use of Marijuana Act on the November 2016 statewide ballot to support a legalized, taxed, and regulated California Cannabis and Hemp Industry.

M/S/C (Arce/Dorsey) Joshua Arce passed around some amendments to the resolution to address four major concerns that were brought to his attention.

David Campos stated that he cares a lot about this issue, but does not understand the need to act tonight. To the extent that this act is deficient, the new body can address this issue.

Petra DeJesus reiterated the lack of a need to act. Unfair to the public to get late notice. We are a sanctuary city and we act differently – does not matter to her what happens on the state level. This is a 46-page bill. Has anyone read it? This new bill is standing on the backs of those who fought for Prop 215. People have fought for their lives to have medical cannabis at accessible prices.

Wendy Aragon, proxy for Eric Mar, spoke about the potential to criminalize black and brown youth. (Brian Webster called out, “That’s not true.”)

Matt Dorsey again apologized that it was his fault for this item not being on the 10-day agenda. The resolution was given to him at the last meeting, so it should have been on the 10-day agenda. He was going to vote no on this at Michelle Aldrich’s request, whom he respects. He asked if Arce could be approached. Arce and Aldrich spoke for an hour.

Hene Kelly spoke about how difficult it is to fix a law once it is passed. She would like to support adult use of marijuana by folks and not be gouged by Big Pharma. She cannot support this resolution.

Joel Engardio asked that we not act tonight, and what can the new body do – running up to the election. Arce responded that once the State Party takes a position, we are not allowed to weigh in and we are bound to it. Chartered Clubs are not bound. The proposition will be heard in the Resolutions Committee and voted on at the Long Beach CDP Executive Board meeting in June and people who are concerned about this should make sure they are in Long Beach to voice their concerns.

Mandelman feels unqualified to weigh in on this tonight. It seems likely that the State Party will support this and that the new law will pass. There will be extra work around the legislation. Maybe the unique role of the local party will be around protecting the rights of medical cannabis users going forward.

Arce reported he spoke with Goldman, President of the Brownie Mary Democratic Club, out in the hall and learned that Aldrich finds the amendment helpful. He got another letter from Goldman stating that AUMA is insufficient.

Goldman spoke about concerns around employment, housing, and child protective services. AUMA needs a lot of fixing and you have to specify the fixes needed, otherwise people will not understand. Patients will pay the price.

DeJesus affirmed what Goldman said.

Keith Baraka, proxy for State Senator Mark Leno, asked about possession of marijuana. David replied if you have less than an ounce, it is an infraction - not a crime. Possession of more than an ounce is a crime.

Zoe Dunning spoke about her mother with terminal lung cancer using marijuana to alleviate her symptoms. Does not feel qualified to act on this and thanked Arce and Aldrich for their input. Taxes will occur on the backs of poor people. She cannot support this.

Engardio said it would be great to make the resolution the amendment.

Arce thanked Goldman for a list of other concepts to consider as we try to influence the CDP. He presented the following amendment to the resolution:

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee calls upon members of San Francisco's Sacramento delegation to work with fellow legislators during AUMA implementation to safeguard the rights of patients and the medical cannabis community, utilize AUMA revenue for schools, protect confidentiality of patients and license applicants, ensure the continuation of cannabis compassion programs, protect cannabis users from discrimination in employment, housing, and child protective services, expand areas of use, and eliminate unnecessary taxes and restrictions on transportation and possession.*

M/S/C (Arce/Wong) moved and seconded to accept this amendment. The motion passed with a vote of Yes 11, No 8, and 7 abstain.

Yes: Arce, Dorsey, Hsieh, Jung, Mandelman, McNeil, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Leno, Chiu.

No: Campos, Cohen, DeJesus, Dufty, Dunning, Kelly, Levitan, Mar.

Abstain: Anderson, Engardio, Philhour, Tsang, Feinstein, Ma, Ting.

M/S/C (Arce/Wong) motion to approve resolution as amended.  
The motion passed with a vote of Yes 11, No 10, and 5 abstain.

Yes: Anderson, Arce, Dorsey, Hsieh, Jung, McNeil, Pimentel, Prozan, Rosenthal, Leno and Chiu.

No: Campos, Cohen, DeJesus, Dufty, Dunning, Kelly, Levitan, Mandelman, Mar, Feinstein.

Abstain: Engardio, Philhour, Tsang, Ma, Ting.

## **8. New Business**

Alix Rosenthal proposed a resolution to honor the victims of the Pulse massacre and to call for necessary gun control measures. To that end, Rosenthal collaborated with Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club President Peter Gallotta to draft the resolution (presented below).

M/S/C (Rosenthal/Dunning) by acclamation to approve said resolution.  
Resolution of the San Francisco Democratic Party Regarding the Mass Shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando

WHEREAS, the members of the San Francisco Democratic Party are horrified by the news of the mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida on June 12, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the shooting targeted a well-known LGBTQ nightclub on a night celebrating the Latinx community, at the height of National Pride Month. Nightclubs are safe havens for LGBTQ people, making this shooting particularly devastating for queer and trans communities, and highlighting the need to protect these community gathering places; and

WHEREAS, the number of mass shootings that take place in the United States signifies a crisis, and it is clear that assault weapons must be prohibited from private ownership.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the San Francisco Democratic Party stands in solidarity with the LGBTQ and LatinX communities in the wake of this terrible tragedy, honors all the LGBTQ people killed and injured by violence, particularly those who are undocumented and may have been denied medical care as a result, and rejects Islamophobic responses to this horrific attack; and THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the San Francisco Democratic Party calls on state and federal Democratic Party leaders to recommit themselves to passing comprehensive gun control measures, and addressing hate crimes against the LGBTQ community and communities of color; and demands that all who are injured in such events receive medical care regardless of immigration status.

*Sponsors:* Alix Rosenthal and Peter Gallotta

*Co-Sponsors:* Joshua Arce, David Campos, Malia Cohen, Kat Anderson, Petra DeJesus, Matt Dorsey, Bevan Dufty, Zoe Dunning, Rafael Mandelman, Leah Pimentel, Rebecca Prozan, Francis Tsang, Scott Wiener, Joel Engardio, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Hene Kelly, Meagan Levitan, Trevor McNeil, Marjan Philhour, Assemblymember David Chiu, Assemblymember Phil Ting, Senator Mark Leno, and Board of Equalization Chair Fiona Ma.

**9. Adjournment at 10:44 pm** in memory of those killed during the Orlando massacre and a thank you to all members of the DCCC for their service during the 2012-2016 term.

Respectfully submitted, Kat Anderson Recording Secretary