

# San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

6:30pm

Tenderloin Community Elementary School

627 Turk Street

San Francisco, CA

## Meeting Minutes

A recording of the meeting can be found online at:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/SFDemocrats/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/SFDemocrats/videos/?ref=page_internal)

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### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

*Meeting called to order at 6:41 pm by Chair Campos*

Roll Call by Recording Secretary F. Hsieh

*Members present:* Alysabeth Alexander (proxy: Peter Gallotta), Angela Alioto, Keith Baraka, London Breed, David Campos, Petra DeJesus, Bevan Dufty, Sandra Lee Fewer (proxy: Leah LaCroix), Peter Gallotta, Kelly Groth, Pratima Gupta, Frances Hsieh, Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Leah LaCroix, Jen Low (proxy: Kelly Groth), Sophie Maxwell, Rachel Norton (proxy: Mary Jung), Aaron Peskin (proxy: Lee Hepner)

*Ex-Officio Members present:* U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (proxy: Megan Levitan); U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (proxy: Dan Bernal); U.S. House Representative Jackie Speier (proxy: Brian Perkins), Board of Equalization Member Fiona Ma (proxy: Kat Anderson), State Senator Scott Wiener (proxy: Matthew Rothschild), Assemblymember Phil Ting (proxy: Alex Walker), Assemblymember David Chiu (proxy: Katie Mackenzie)

*Members absent/excused:* Malia Cohen, Mark Farrell, Jane Kim, Rafael Mandelman

25 members present, 4 members absent (2 excused)

### 2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

*Motion to approve:* Member Wiener; *Second:* Member Gupta

*Vote Count:* Approved by acclamation

### 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

*Motion to approve:* Member DeJesus; *Second:* Member F. Hsieh

*Vote Count:* Approved by acclamation

### 4. General Public Comment

*Public Comment began at 6:47 pm*

Susan Pfeiffer gave an update on Democracy Action activities and voter registration; Xavier Abuchon-Mendoza (DSA, LDC, 1021, CDP) spoke in favor of items 11 & 12 and requested more

forums to help get money out of politics; Brent Turner (CAVO) read a statement in support of open source voting systems; Aria Said (HRC) spoke in support of the appointment of Honey Mahogany; Ms. Billie Cooper, long time community member spoke in support of Honey Mahogany; Joseph Adkins spoke in support of Honey Mahogany experience and work in the community; Andy Russell spoke in opposition to item 11 and the arbitrary restrictions that lead to clinic closures; Jay Cheng (APDC) spoke in support of the name change of Asian Pacific Democratic Club to the Edwin M. Lee Democratic Club and its mission to mentor and engage young APIs; Andrew Sun spoke in support of the name change of APDC and gave history of Mayor Ed Lee and honoring his legacy; Tami Bryant spoke in support of John Chiang and his work as Controller for state workers; Jordan Davis (MSROC) spoke in support of item 12, against more luxury housing and in support of Honey Mahogany; Kawika Alfiche (Hawaiian Cultural Center) in support of Honey Mahogany as a valuable asset and advocate; Marion Pellegrini spoke about the diplomacy and tireless work of Honey Mahogany for Compton's Cultural District and support of transgender community; Cookie Bivens (TGI Justice Project) spoke in support of Honey Mahogany and her work with reentry programs; Christine Randolph (FDR DC) invited attendees to their January 29th disaster preparedness event from 6-8 pm at Lighthouse for the Blind; Jay Hansen spoke in opposition to item 11 and that it would not lower costs for patients, but will only help private insurance companies; Lynn Fran Lohern asked for support to protect neighborhoods from high frequency antennas and cell towers.

Speaking in support of item 11: Alan Wong (SEIU UHW) spoke about the need to improve safety for patients; Ida Pineo (dialysis patient) spoke about her experience as a patient and the challenges of techs needing more experience and training; Paula Saulsby (dialysis patient) spoke about need to care for safety of patients; Larry Yee (APALA) in support of item 11

Speaking in support of item 12: Maria Aviles (Plaza 16) spoke about the displacement of Mission residents, the growing unaffordability and in support of the Marvel of the Mission alternative; Marily Duran (Plaza 16) spoke in opposition to the Monster in the Mission; Dairo Romero (Plaza 16) as Mission resident spoke in support of building 100% affordable housing at 16th and Mission; Mario Zamudio (Plaza 16) spoke in support of community power over greed; Susan March spoke about wave of displacement and erosion of Latinx community; Chirag Bhakta in support of SROs as housing of last resort and loss of affordable housing stock; Andy Blue spoke against luxury housing development and support of the Marvel in the Mission; Susan Cieutat, parent of Marshall student, stated the Monster in the Mission project will cast a shadow on the school and deceptive practices of Maximum; Tommi Avicelli Mecca (HRCFSF) talked about how these types of projects contribute to evictions, higher rents, and displace poor and working families; Tony Robles (SDA) spoke against SF monsters, as an advocate for seniors and disabled, and the fears of seniors facing homelessness; Michael Lyon (SDA) spoke about the nightmare of changes to the neighborhood, stop Monster in the Mission; Ryan Knutson (La Raza Centro Legal) spoke about rate of evictions of elderly and disabled clients in the past year; Gary Gregerson (Red Stone Community Center) spoke about history in Mission and threat of market forces and loss of space for artists and non profits

*Public Comment closed at 7:29 pm*

## **5. Reports**

**a) Chair** (Campos) Thanked members for support of Unity Breakfast - more than 300

attended and special thanks to the hard work of Adam Mehis and Natalie Gee; spoke about difficult choice in filling the vacancy in AD 17, and the demands of representing all SF voices. In response to the lack of transgender voice on SFDCCC, will be appointing Honey Mahogany and spoke about her experience, talents, community work and commitment and new energy to help raise the voice of the transgender community. Honey Mahogany introduced self as native San Franciscan, talked about her work on Compton's Transgender District, and vision of Democratic Party as the party of the people, representing the diversity of SF and adding her transgender voice to SFDCCC.

*Motion to approve appointment: Member Wiener; Second: Member Breed*  
*Vote Count: Approved by Acclamation*

Chair Campos swore in new SFDCCC member, Honey Mahogany.

**b) Finance** (DeJesus) - Still tabulating money from breakfast, will have exact numbers next month, reminded body that we only have 1 more month to raise money for the federal account.

**c) Voter Registration** (Baraka) - Voter registration at Women's March and garnered 40 registrations; spoke about exploring increasing voter registration with paid canvasser; thanked Susan Pfeiffer and invited people to join voter registration at February 15th citizenship ceremony in Oakland; plans to have a voter registration presence at all events.

**d) Club Chartering** (Gupta) - The Asian Pacific Democratic Club is changing name to Edwin M. Lee Asian Pacific Islander Democratic Club and will need to recharter.

*Motion to approve charter: Member Gupta; Second: Member Speier*  
*Vote Count: Approved by Acclamation*

Gave update about Summer Internship Program plan to host a total of 6 interns (4 college and 2 high school students) from mid-June to mid-August. Applications will be available on the website and applications are due on March 30, asked members to promote program; Reviewed highlights of community survey, exceeded goal with 548 responses, with top issue of taking back house and second issue of housing affordability, respondents also want to see more forums and trainings, reminded people about upcoming February 4th retreat where there will be a deeper dive into survey responses and final report will be posted on website.

**e) Outreach** (LaCroix) - Spoke about outreach team plans, find ways to connect more people to the party and "Proud SF Democrat" campaign, with design competition for swag that can provide fundraising support.

**f) Treasurer** (Alexander) - Member Alexander is enjoying her new baby and will email fundraising numbers as soon as finalized.

#### **g) Committees**

**By-Laws** (DeJesus) - Next meeting is on February 6 at 6 pm at Muddy's on Valencia and 24th Street, plan to bring amendments for consideration to the February meeting, may be a joint meeting with Endorsements Committee.

**Communications** (Gallotta) - Next meeting is on February 12, from 6-8 pm at the SFDCCC office, focus is on growing social media presence, live streaming tonight's meeting; Gave update on "Proud SF Democrat" campaign previewed at breakfast; Launched monthly newsletter which goes to 10,000 member email list, people can sign-up on our website, invited members to write for newsletter, which will also feature clubs.

**Endorsements** (F. Hsieh) - Stated would present later on agenda.

**h) Executive Director (Mehis)** - Apologized that written comments did not make it onto agenda, but will send out over email; Reminder that pre-endorsement meeting is on January 28th; there are lots of committee meetings to make note of, including events where SFDCCC is co-sponsoring upcoming forums, including Friday debate at 6 pm at City College; Accountant has changed to Stacy Owens Group, which took over Hank Levy Group and their clients; RFP for slatecard is live on website.

**i) CDP Region 6 Update (Kelly)** - Pre-endorsement meeting is at 1:30 pm on Sunday in Millbrae, Kevin DeLeon, John Chiang and other candidates will be speaking and there will be updates about convention.

## **6. Presentation from John Chiang, Candidate for Governor of California, and Q&A (Campos)**

San Francisco is a bastion of equality and freedom and to speak up, people who serve in SF have a responsibility to fulfill that promise, gave background, story of immigrant family from Taiwan, faced discrimination, social inclusion fundamental dignity and inclusion, California needs to be that bastion more than ever in the face of powers from DC, served in 3 financial office of CA, Board of Equalization, Controller, Treasurer, challenge of communicating not about numbers, but about values; housing as a right, increased the building of new housing by 83%, reduced through backlog of new housing credits; world class education; justice, equality and opportunity are the hallmarks of California, California dream

*Member Maxwell* stated one of the glaring issues is crime and criminal justice system, do you still believe in building more prisons to rehabilitate? *JC* responded about funding into corrections system, how is the money being used? Those being incarcerated need to be rehabilitated, need to invest in advanced education with local flavor and invest in mental health, life, social, re-entry skills; *Member Peskin* asked about homelessness and affordable housing, spoke about Prop B on waterfront development, how can we work together to improve affordable housing and thoughts about recent lawsuit by State Lands Commission? *JC* Thought that mission of State Lands Commission to protect public lands was important, but need to respect local needs, work together on what is transpiring in the community and plan for long term future to optimize benefits; *Member DeJesus* asked his opinion on death penalty as someone who appoints judges *JC* voted to repeal death penalty; *Member Dufty* asked about fostering innovation and morale among public employees, *JC* must be fully invest in public employees and need fair compensation, adequate housing, not put them at risk, spoke about budget stance for public employees during Schwarzenegger budgets, workforce needs access to education, treat people like how you want your mom treated; *Michael Lyon (Hand in Hand)* Medicare does not cover most long term care. Medicaid requires families to spend down to poverty. Will you commit to support the creation of universal long-time care in California? How would you finance it? *JC* How do we push back against federal government, support of community health clinics, created emergency lifeline fund to keep clinics open, look at financing tools, has experience in financial audits to fund long term care, amnesty programs, tighten debt collection programs; *Member Baraka* Asked about private prisons and pay for volunteer firefighters who are incarcerated *JC* Calfire is underpaid, opposes private prisons; *William Walker* asked about Prop 13 *JC* take out abuses, triggers need to be amended and include

education triggers; *Eric Silver* University of California is mulling a tuition increase, do you believe in tuition increases and how can higher education be made more affordable? *JC* Need to dedicate a revenue stream to higher education, can't defer payments to education, enforce funding and revenues to pay for public education, must make it accessible, find other way to raise revenues, can't put it on the back of working class families and students, need someone with financial expertise *Member T. Hsieh* water issue is always either feast or famine in California, the need never ends, CA hasn't built dams since 50's/60's, what is your water vision for CA to meet needs of people and farmers *JC* responded that state needs a menu of options, support local tools, promote flood irrigation techniques for farmers, need inventory of state assets and their current state and financial needs, localize water storage and water devices and tools to minimize impact of unpredictability of water situation in the state *Member Gallotta* there is a housing crisis in SF and state, plans for addressing housing affordability and loss of redevelopment and *Costa Hawkins* repeal *JC* need to reset *Costa Hawkins*, address people engaging in housing, contributions on all levels of funding, federal, state and local; *Chair Campos*, will you be attending upcoming gubernatorial forum co-hosted by SFDCCC? *JC* Apologized that last minute personal matter came up and cannot attend.

## **7. Presentation from Dave Jones, Candidate for Attorney General of California, and Q&A**

Current Insurance Commissioner, has an office in Fremont and is in Bay Area once a week; Commission is a consumer protection agency, issues he has worked include expanding coverage for behavioral therapy for autism, insurance for Uber drivers, implementing and defending Obamacare; Attorney General should be a litigator, 30 years as a litigator, started as legal aid lawyer representing farm workers to fighting Trump, has experience suing lots of folks as insurance commissioner; Believes criminal justice reform is key, to ballance undue ravages of war on drugs, prisons are the new jim crow, dramatically expanding reentry programs, jobs, job training, health coverage, mental health services, affordable housing, help folks be successful, people being pushed out of jails for low level, non-serious, non-felony crimes need and deserve the government's help; Prop 47 savings should also be sent to SF rather than being held in Sacramento to be deployed programmatically; Other distinctions from opponent - has effective record of progressive change, opposes death penalty, supports single payer, universal healthcare and enact SB 562, doesn't take insurance, big oil, corporate, or charter school money, committed to reversing climate change, important to send progressives that are not beholden to corporate interests, is an independent public interest lawyer building a strong grassroots campaign, *Member Alioto* complimented him on great email campaign, has learned a lot about Pelican Bay hell; *DJ* young volunteers are great, we can do a better job in corrections, no more private prisons, civil rights of Californians are upheld, we must have the confidence to disagree; *Member Mahogany* recommended TGIJP and asked for plan to hold police department accountable for abuses and behavior, hostile work environments and intimidation used to suppress communities of color *DJ* will hold departments accountable, if there is evidence of unfair investigation, misconduct, would be willing to intervene and bring actions, will defer to local level, but need AG who can step in and has no tolerance for

discriminatory behavior in his department, spoke about unconscious biases and his mandatory training for all staff and would institute in AGs office, would also require health insurers to cover transgender health services; *Luis Zamora* asked about plan for mental health facilities in CA *DJ* as Insurance Commissioner, has enforced state Mental Health Parity Act as a mandate to provide whatever services are needed for mental health treatment services, must expand and identify resources for mental health services for formerly incarcerated; *Member of the public (unknown)* What is your position on Costa Hawkins, *DJ* believes local communities have to have ability to decide for themselves, must drastically expand supply of housing, push for inclusionary affordable housing legislation, as AG can enforce laws that require localities to zone enough for affordable housing; *Tami Bryant* Will you defend Sanctuary State policies? *DJ* Thought CA should have been the first to file lawsuits, and will defend and resist federal overreach; *Member Baraka* thanked for supporting our LGBT democratic clubs, what do you think about paying prisoners for firefighting? *DJ* must be paid a decent wage, expand programs to train offenders in jobs and skills, should not be extorting labor, support education programs

#### **8. Federal Legislative Update from U.S. Senator and DCCC member Dianne Feinstein (Campos)**

Sean Elsbernd, State Director. Ranking member of judiciary which takes up 2/3rds of time, explained blue slip tradition as example of extreme defense position in DC and Russia investigation and obstruction of justice, monuments; spoke about support for DREAM act and comprehensive immigration reform; other priority issues include gun control, assault weapons ban, bump stocks ban; reviewed intelligence committee major issues - North Korea, Iran, nuclear disarmament; supported disaster funding for California; touched on support for environmental protections and climate change issues; judiciary committee allows some oversight over DOJ and hearings on judicial appointments; *Member Wiener* brought up the contradicting Republican positions on blue slips, *SE* Hypocrisy doesn't matter to Republicans; *Chair Campos* asked for more thoughts on recent DOJ letters to Sanctuary jurisdictions; *SE* will use bully pulpit of judiciary committee to highlight these issues as just retribution; *Member Baraka* thanked for work on releasing transcripts, *SE* office priorities are transparency and education; *Member Gallotta*, disappointed in DACA and shutdown, what's next? *SE* she was also upset that Democrats did not carry it all the way, will continue to fight

#### **9. Presentation on San Francisco's Seawall Resiliency Project (Campos)**

Elaine Forbes, port director, talked about unseen, but serious problem for SF, seawall has created 500 acres of City land and supports MUNI at Embarcadero, spoke to its earthquake vulnerability and sea level rise; Brad Benson, Pier 45 to Mission Creek, 3 mile stretch, reviewed presentation giving history of the land and seawall, describing site, presenting dangers and challenges and potential damage, reviewed proposed options to address, highlighted upcoming GO bond for November; *Member Baraka* asked if any of four scenarios are preferred; *BB* not currently, different options in different areas, seeking public feedback; *Member Alioto* asked about estimated timeline since it is a problem now *BB* right now in vulnerable study phase, long term project over decades, most serious is being addressed today through early analysis;

*Member Groth* asked about plans to expand Mission Creek and ideas other than relying on developers, Pier 70 as an example, what about other parts without developers *BB* Mission Rock plan is going to Board of Supervisors, Pier 70 is going to raise area to be resilient, resiliency by design for Islais Creek for different strategies, have more leeway, but are getting ready to address entire length with Sea Level Rise Committee *Member Speier* how much money and who is going to be involved? *BB* Currently with federal interest study with Army Corps of Engineers, test case with a 2020 ask for funding *Member Ting* what's the state angle and ask for BCDC *BB* will use state share of property tax on port properties, Member Chiu may float legislation, will look at cap and trade funds and other options in state budget.

#### **10. Update on San Francisco Democratic Party Endorsement Questionnaire & Upcoming Endorsement Process (F. Hsieh)**

*Member F. Hsieh* gave background on process to revamp questionnaire through meetings of Endorsement Committee since November (co-chairs are Members Low and F. Hsieh) and spoke about overall process; priorities included balancing substantive questions to highlight differences in candidates with manageable length of questionnaire, differentiated questionnaires between different races; questionnaires have been vetted through Executive Committee; gave timeline and dates for June election interviews - March 17th starting a 10 am in Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, open to the public and March 28th endorsement vote at SFDCCC, deadline for campaigns to respond is March 12th; questionnaires and information available on website, also any member of chartered clubs are welcome to attend March 17th interviews; *Member Wiener* asked for clarification on interview and endorsement dates; *Member Baraka* how soon will questionnaires be available on website? *Member F. Hsieh* as soon as possible, on a rolling basis.

#### **11. Resolution Supporting the Fair Pricing for Dialysis Act (Campos, Groth, Low, Gallotta, Alexander, F. Hsieh, Mandelman, Gupta, DeJesus, Cohen)**

*Member Maxwell* requested to be added as a cosponsor.

*Chair Campos* gave background on issue and resolution and need to support patient safety and health as well as labor issues; *Member Baraka* asked about issue of cost recovery for items like reimbursement for costs such as doctor trainings, can opposing concerns be addressed, 115% reimbursement rate seems reasonable, is it correct that it is only for private insurance; *Alan Wong & Joan Allen* this is covered and there is some discretion for additional items to cover; commercial insurance drives the market, want to flip market *Jay* ballot measure is not as clear as the description, and regulatory agency hasn't been created; measure does not help patient safety, but is poorly written.

*Amendments:* Add Member Maxwell as co-sponsor

*Motion to approve:* Member Gallotta; *Second:* Member DeJesus

*Vote Count:* Approved by Acclamation

*Abstentions:* Member Wiener

**12. Resolution Opposing the “Monster in the Mission” and Supporting Mission District Community** (F. Hsieh, DeJesus, Groth, Gupta, Campos, Gallotta)

*Member F. Hsieh* reviewed resolution, work with community coalition, background on project details, spoke about CDP platform planks directly related to issue and resolution, relationship to Democratic party values and supporting community request; *Member DeJesus* Mission is ground zero for displacement and luxury development, resolution represents justice for that community. *Member Ma* looking at Marvel design and appreciate the community work, how does the Marvel get paid for? *Plaza 16 Coalition*: financial discussion diminishes the effort, there needs to be a space for the community to have this conversation, neither Maximus or community coalition have full funding, funding comes from what government prioritizes; *Chair Campos* spoke about funding opportunities, including Municipal Transportation Commission funds for affordable Transit Oriented Development projects, and talks to recommend that developer work with community groups; *Member Alioto* as a former Supervisor, housing is so important, crime is a massive issue, give a home, give a unit to a poor person, housing is the point, loves the Mission, does not think is an eviction issue; housing, housing, housing; *Member T. Hsieh* we are in this crisis and these resolutions pis one side against another, our City is in crisis, but displacement has been happening his whole life, housing provides stability and tax base, party should not be calling out individuals; *Member Dufty* pie d’terre crisis, we don’t need more market rate housing in the Mission, 10 years of no affordable development in Mission led to this crisis, easier to not call people out, this development would be a shining example, broken trust; *Member Ting* abstaining because it is a local land issue, glad to see alternatives.

*Motion to approve:* Member F. Hsieh; *Second:* Member DeJesus

*Vote Count:* Approved (14 Aye, 5 Naye, 8 Abstain, 6 Absent)

*Ayes:* Alexander, Campos, DeJesus, Dufty, Gallotta, Groth, Gupta, F. Hsieh, LaCroix, Low, Mahogany, Maxwell

*Nayes:* Alioto, T. Hsieh, Jung, Norton, Wiener

*Abstentions:* Baraka, Fewer, Peskin, Pelosi, Speier, Ma, Ting, Chiu

*Absent:* Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mandelman, Feinstein

**13. New Business** (Discussion and possible action)

No new business.

**14. Adjournment in Memory of Hon. Edwin M. Lee, 43rd Mayor of San Francisco**

*Chair Campos* spoke in support of Mayor Ed Lee and honoring his legacy and memory. *Member F. Hsieh* also requested meeting be adjourned in honor of long-time Democratic activist **Kevin C. Malone**.

*Meeting was adjourned at 10:08 pm*