

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

6:30pm

Tenderloin Community Elementary School

627 Turk Street

San Francisco, CA

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

A recording of the meeting can be found online at:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/SFDemocrats/videos/?ref=page_internal

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm by Chair Campos

Roll Call by Member Groth

Members present: Alysabeth Alexander, Angela Alioto (proxy: Angela Veronese), Keith Baraka, David Campos, Petra DeJesus, Bevan Dufty (proxy:), Sandra Lee Fewer, Peter Gallotta, Kelly Groth, Pratima Gupta, Frances Hsieh (proxy: Pratima Gupta), Tom Hsieh, Mary Jung, Leah LaCroix, Jen Low, Honey Mahogany, Rafael Mandelman, Sophie Maxwell, Aaron Peskin.

Ex-Officio Members present: 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: Izzy Maloof), State Senator Scott Wiener (proxy: Victor Ruiz-Cornejo), Assemblymember Phil Ting (proxy: Alex Walker), Assemblymember David Chiu (proxy: Kenneth Chen)

Members absent/excused: Members London Breed, Malia Cohen, Mark Farrell, Jane Kim, Rachel Norton, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

25 members present, 6 members absent (2 excused)

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Chair Campos requested to close the meeting in memory of Sharen Hewitt; *Member Gallotta* requested that Item 13: Resolution in Support of Youth Justice Reform, be removed from agenda as the item was not ready for discussion.

Amendments: In memoriam and item 13 removal

Motion to amend: Member Gallotta; *Second:* Member Baraka

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

Vote Count: Approved by Acclamation

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Member LaCroix; *Second:* Member Mahogany

Vote Count: Approved by Acclamation

4. General Public Comment

Public Comment began at 6:46 pm

Susan Pfeiffer invited people to Rock the Congress, a one day conference/training open to all resistance groups, Democratic clubs, and members of the public; Kwixuan Maloof, running for Superior Court Judge, native San Francisco, public defender in SF and Alameda for over 20 years, stated public safety as #1 concern, justice is a matter of human dignity; Lisa Duberry is a criminal defense attorney, presented letter of support signed by colleagues, speaking in support of Judge Ross as seasoned and experienced; Ben Terrall, Secretary of Redstone Labor Temple, urged DCCC to approve item 12, resolution to save Redstone Building, as it is a community hub supporting artists and non profit groups; Elizabeth Zareh, resident in D3, running for Superior Court Judge, seat 9, currently works as judge pro-tem, Commissioner on Assessment Appeals Board, currently in private practice, hoping to get DCCC support; Bruce Agid, President of Eastern Neighborhood Democratic Club (ENDC), requesting chartering of new club representing D3, 6, 10, focused on addressing public safety and quality of life, public space, transit, open space and issues that cut through all three districts, want to complement existing organizations through voter registration, GOTV; Nancy Tung, VP of public safety, public health, and homeless issues for ENDC, making first public comment, want to address major issues that affect San Francisco across districts; Mark Rannenber, VP of policy and advocacy for ENDC, introduced self and experience and reasons for selecting policy issues of concern; Connie Ford, VP of SF Labor Council, spoke in support of item 7, Labor Council and Working America working together to go to Central Valley this year to make a difference in who is going to be representing in DC; Eric Do, resident of D3, spoke on behalf of ENDC chartering, felt important to become more active in political process since 2016 elections; Derek Lee, VP of ENDC, born and raised in SF in North Beach, asked that DCCC charter ENDC; Tyra Fennell, Bayview Hunters Point resident, spoke on behalf of chartering of ENDC; Kevin Bard, VP of Harvey Milk LGBT Club, spoke in support of name change and adding Queer to club name, membership voted to add Queer and wanted to represent folks who don't identify under binary terms of gender identification; Linda Colfax, was last in front of DCCC in 2010, asked for support for colleagues especially Judge Jeff Ross, stated he is compassionate and patient, collaborative; Carl Kramer, SF Living Wage Coalition spoke in support of item 12, spoke to historical importance of building, need for community center, loss of space for social justice and worker advocacy organizations; Michael Amster stated he was working on statewide legislation to make it illegal for ICE agents to represent themselves as police officers, asked for people in attendance to help for public safety reasons; Erica Tragesser, spoke in support of chartering Laurel San Francisco, spoke about mission to support and expand higher education, help members advocate for higher education and grow leadership experience; Eric Silver, President of Laurel SF, requested charter for Dem Club, no Dem club for students to get involved in system, will help get students involved in the political system; Maria Evangelista, daughter of farm workers, current public defender, tried over 50 cases, native San Franciscan grew up in South of Market, wants SF bench to reflect population it serves, looks forward to meeting with all; Jeff Ross, Superior Court Judge, son of refugee, wants to make sure there is access for all limited English speakers, started career as criminal justice lawyer, most recently judge of Veterans Court, looks forward to meeting members of DCCC.

Chair Campos asked to take item 12 out of order in deference to Member Alexander.

Public Comment closed at 7:12 pm

5. Reports

a) Chair (Campos) - Thanked those who attended or sent proxies to California Democratic Convention, ordering more “Proud SF Dem” shirts that are for sale; gave update on retreat from Jovita Ross. *Jovita Ross* spoke about SF DCCC retreat, she facilitated process for objectives and goals for remainder for the year. Jovita spoke to guidelines when there are disagreements within organization, how we might come up with principles, we need a more participatory process, have smaller committees lead on thinking and generate proposals on how to put it into practice; did a SWOT analysis to come up with priorities to move forward together in coming year; *Chair Campos* spoke about meetings and discussions with CA Dem Party, Leader Pelosi, Swing Left, people focusing on swing districts, in communication with SF Labor Council, tentative agreement on DCCC and Labor Council to work together to have presence in CD10 to turn into Dem district, to put program together, need to raise funds in our federal account to do what is needed, will be asking at mayoral forum to for candidates to commit to providing volunteers for a weekend where we can canvass in CD10.

b) Finance (DeJesus) - Retreat was valuable, priorities will be to raise funds for more staffing and fulfill basic budget needs.

c) Voter Registration (Baraka) - Thanked Susan Pfeiffer for organizing voter registration, registered 285 new voters, and recruited a volunteer to help in developing text-to-register for folks to register to vote, still working to identify resources for door to door knocking project.

d) Club Chartering (Gupta) -

Eastern Neighborhoods Democratic Club (New Charter) *Member DeJesus* asked how diversity will be addressed in each district, which has different issues such as D10 versus D3; *Bruce Agid* replied that purpose and goal in increasing activism to complement current efforts, community organizations, and nonprofits, while there are a lot of differences throughout SF, there are some commonalities they would like to address and tie to political process; *Member Peskin* asked if they had consulted with D3 Dem Club and D6 Dem Club to make sure club isn't presuming to speaking for those clubs; *Bruce Agid* responded that haven't spoken with clubs, no intent for ENDC to speak on behalf of other clubs but wants to look at issues that cut across all districts; *Member Peskin* was unsure of mission of club and wanted to focus on statewide issues and races; *Member T. Hsieh* spoke about different clubs within same communities; *Chair Campos* mentioned that he met with Agid to prevent duplication of efforts; *Member Fewer* asked about outreach to Treasure Island and if club had any members on TI; *Bruce Agid* replied that of 58 members there is one member on Treasure Island, want to make sure TI is engaged on issues; *Member Maxwell* thought it was important to do everything we can to make sure Democrats and clubs are successful.

Motion to approve charter: Member Gupta; Second: Member Baraka

Vote Count: Approved by Acclamation

Laurels San Francisco Democratic Club (New Charter) - committed to advocate for public higher education, defending and expanding issues of public higher education.

Motion to approve charter: Member Gupta; Second: Member Speier

Vote Count: Approved by Acclamation

Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club (Name Change) - according to bylaws, name change requires a rechartering. Adding "Q" for "Queer" to name.

Motion to approve name change/recharter: Member Gupta; *Second:* Member Mahogany

Vote Count: Approved by Acclamation

e) Outreach (LaCroix) - Partnering with D11 Democratic Club for Sunday Streets, Excelsior on March 25 to table and reach out to residents and register voters

f) Treasurer (Alexander) - Reviewed financial documents and committee balances; *Member T. Hsieh* asked for profit and loss statement; *Member Alexander* replied that both months will be provided at next month's meeting.

g) Committees

By-Laws (DeJesus) - Reviewed three changes that need to be made on agenda items to follow, in process of hiring trademark attorney and reviewed items occurring later on agenda.

Communications (Gallotta) - Livestreaming all of our events; acknowledged Paul Stell of Harvey Milk DC who has volunteered his time to record meetings; launched new spring fashion line of Proud SF Dem shirts; looking at more collateral; announced Mayoral debate on March 8 at LGBT Center, asked committee members to help promote event; next Communications meeting will be on Monday, March 12, from 6-7:30 pm at Muddy Waters on 16th and Valencia.

Endorsements (Low) - Endorsement interviews will be at Women's Building, starting at 10:00 am on March 17, open to the public, questionnaires are all available on website; put forward request for committee to open up endorsements to statewide candidates that were not endorsed at CDP convention.

h) Executive Director (Mehis) - Thanked Member Groth for assistance in logistics and finding proxies during convention. Thanked clubs for submitting 460s to DCCC, those who have submitted: BHDC, HMLGBTQDC, PHDC, FDR, NADC, LYDSF, UDC, SBD6DC, SFYD, reminded liaisons to follow up with clubs that have not turned in yet.

i) CDP Region 6 Update (Kelly) - Enjoyed convention this year, wanted to thank delegates who stayed through Sunday; looking forward to another E-board meeting, July 13-15 in Oakland at the Marriott Downtown; convention was more accessible this year than in years prior, notable because SF is one of the few DCCCs to have physical and language access in our platform; *Chair Campos* stated we will send out endorsement questionnaires to candidates who were not endorsed by CDP during convention.

12. Resolution in Support of the Redstone Labor Temple (F. Hsieh, Alexander)

Chair Campos took Item 12 out of order.

Member Alexander gave background on historic Redstone Labor Temple, built in 1914 by Labor Council, site of historic 1934 strike, still hub for important groups and very low-income community groups that are core to culture of SF, including nonprofits EL-LA and Living Wage Coalition, asked for support; *Member Peskin* noted that as a member of the Board of Supervisors, normally does not vote on matters that come before the Board, however, he has voted in the past to landmark building (landmark designation 238) in December 2003 so will be supporting.

Amendments: Member DeJesus added as co-sponsor.

Motion to approve: Member Maxwell; *Second:* Member Low

Vote Count: Approved by Acclamation

6. Presentation from Donnie Fowler, Co-Founder of The Democracy Labs (Maxwell)

Member Maxwell gave background on meeting Donnie Fowler at Indivisible meeting and his background with DNC; *Donnie Fowler* discussed 2016 Democratic National Convention delegates from different campaigns and frustration; Donnie gave five choices party is dealing with right now: 1) How we got to where we are is series of choices Democratic Party has made; 2) If Democrat doesn't mean anything, it doesn't matter what policy is, voters don't care; 3) Do we have to be pro-Democratic Party or anti-Trump? This isn't a choice, we have to do both; 4) Can't just focus on one demographic, not just increasing voter turnout among Black women, young voters, labor voters, rural voters, but all voters; 5) What's next? What comes after 2018? Whether we win or lose, there are 3 things that matter more: redistricting, voter suppression, and 2020 census which will impact redistricting. We have a choice on what the Democratic Party needs to be, the Democratic Party has not evolved on how we deal with voters, our meetings are small and sparse. We can't win if 15 people attend, need to understand digital and social media; need to be movement, not just an institution.

7. Presentation from Lora Jo Foo, Volunteer with Working America (DeJesus)

Member DeJesus gave background on Working America; *Lora Jo Foo* organizes Democrats to canvass with Working America, a community affiliate of AFL-CIO; has been working in battleground states, with 3 million members across the country, 70% consider themselves moderate or conservative; have a win rate of 70% and since Trump election dropped to 62%; is a nonpartisan organization that operates after primaries; focused on voter persuasion on issues: jobs, affordable healthcare, education, secure retirement, corporate accountability; ask voters at door what main concerns are, if they know their representative voted to cut programs, and build relationships; swing voters are key in CD 10 and 21, Democrats outnumber Republicans, but when Independents vote with Republicans, they outnumber Democrats; in CD 10 Democrats are only 41% and only 48% in CD 21; Swing voters and white working class voters are necessary in these types of districts; opened Modesto office in June, knocked on 58,000 doors, spoke to 54,000 voters; by November, need to knock on 150,000 doors; *Member DeJesus* asked to touch on findings when knocking on doors; *Lora Jo Foo* surveyed 300 Latino voters in Modesto on key issues: education was #1, healthcare was #2, jobs was #3, these economic issues unite working voters across all demographics; SF DCCC will be working with SF Labor Council to take buses out to CD10.

8. Presentation on Ranked Choice Voting by Pedro Hernandez of FairVote California (Campos)

Pedro Hernandez, Deputy Director of FairVote California; As an attorney, traveled around the state to challenge at-large voting systems that dilute minority voting power; sees ranked choice voting as electoral reform that can increase minority voice and equal opportunity for minority

candidates; FairVote California was founded in 2016, affiliated with FairVote National and works on issues of electoral reform issues including national popular vote, universal registration, lowering voting age, and ranked choice voting; Used in SF since 2004, only second time used to elect mayor in an open election; gives voters a change to rank candidates without worrying about wasting or splitting vote and no runoffs where turnout drops steeply; Prior to ranked choice, only 3 out of 5 voters turned out in December runoff elections, where as close to 87% of voters participate in final rounds of ranked choice voting; In SF and Bay Area more voters are ranking, RCV evens playing field for grassroots campaigns, those outspent by IEs are winning; RCV basically allows you to 1) vote for who you love 2) vote for who you like 3) vote for who you can live with; went through handout that demonstrated how mechanics work and what doesn't work - bullet voting, voting for same candidate in all rankings, etc.; conducting voter education group and fun events to demonstrate how it works, like ranking beer during Beer Week at California Academy of Sciences; please sign up to help publicize, receive trainings, or to volunteer; will be holding ranked choice voting training for candidates in November 2018 election on March 31; *Chair Campos* asked if RCV education was penetrating to any particular groups; *Pedro Hernandez* said voters usually rank when it matters vs. when it's not a competitive race; many misconceptions, need to continue education work; *Chair Campos* asked since we have chance to rank 1-2-3 for endorsements, if he had any guidance on that benefit; *Pedro Hernandez*, first choice is most important, second will only come into play if first is eliminated, so there is clear benefit to voters to rank candidates, endorsing organizations should consider who is a preferred candidate and what order you want them in, but a third candidate recommendation should be good enough to be considered on par with first; *Member Gallotta* thanked for Pedro for his work, asked about whether they did research about when candidates team up together, asked about efficacy with ranked choice strategy; *Pedro Hernandez*, talked about elections where there was coalition building and shared strategy, candidates must take it upon themselves to make sure they are sending messages to voters on their strategy; *Chair Campos* asked for examples where local parties have ranked and it has made a difference; *Pedro Hernandez*, Our Revolution in Minneapolis as an example where two candidates were ranked, demonstrated importance of making intention explicit; *Member DeJesus* asked for clarification on common mistakes voters make; *Pedro Hernandez* most voters tend to understand, but there are still mistakes, however there has been a decline, issuing a more comprehensive report soon; *Chair Campos* asked everyone to spread word that FairVote can make presentations and do voter education.

9. Proposed By-Law Amendments Regarding Use of San Francisco Democratic Party Name (Article 1, Section 1; Article 9, Section 1) and Conflict of Interest Disclosure (Article 4, Section 9) (Bylaws Committee)

Member DeJesus called items 9, 10, and 11 together, reviewed proposed changes, highlighted that conflict of interest disclosure measure regarding members who have a material financial interest before the SF DCCC shall disclose such an interest and form is based upon CDP form; *Member Peskin* wanted a higher standard for conflict of interest section in PPM, should be a

recusal rather than disclosure standard, SFDFCC should drill into conflict of interest policies, if member is running for office, they should not be able to vote to endorse themselves as DCCC member, proposes changes to Sections 1.0-1.7 to make language stronger for those who are running for office or member of BOS, Strike Section 1.4 and renumber, felt trademark infringement was unwieldy and unenforceable, proposed language to speed up enforcement of infringement sections, clarify language in Policy and Procedure Manual; *Member DeJesus* invited Member Peskin to attend Bylaws Committee, gave background on Conflict of Interest section, consulted with attorneys that clarified weak jurisdiction of SFDFCC and mirroring CDP practices, agreed to look into streamlining trademark infringement language; *Member T. Hsieh* spoke about Bylaws Committee meetings as deep dive discussions about policies that would be correct, appropriate, and fair, distinguished standards between this elected body and other elected officials as determined by SFDFCC attorneys; *Member Speier* are ex-officios exempted and other privacy concerns; *Member Ting* asked to look again at ex-officio members and appointed members/seats and optional address rather than voting address for ex-officios; *Member DeJesus* withdrew motion and asked to send back to committee; *Chair Campos* asked that committee review expediting trademark violation process, believed there was a legal difference between Board of Supervisors and SFDFCC in terms of recusal vs. disclosure; *Member Jung* asked for clarification about chartered club disclosure requirements; *Member DeJesus* said that as long as guidelines are followed there will not be problems, will be made automatic in chartering of clubs; *Member Gallotta* asked about whether bylaws discussed clubs that haven't chartered, but used "Democratic Club" in their name, potential grey area and confusing to public; *Member Gupta* distinguished difference between using language that says "chartered by Democratic Party" vs. using "Democratic" in name, one way to address is to include disclosure that charter is pending, thanked Bylaws Committee for work and wanted a consensus so that something is in place before slate cards; *Member Peskin* asked if we could divide out issues of conflict of interest amendment from use of Democratic Party trademark amendment since it is less controversial; *Chair Campos* clarified that items have been withdrawn and will be sent back to committee.

Vote Count: No action taken, items 9, 10, 11 sent back to committee.

10. Proposed Update to the Policy & Procedure Manual Regarding the Use of the San Francisco Democratic Party Name (Article 7, Sections 1.1-1.3) and Conflict of Interest Disclosure (new Article 14) (Bylaws Committee)

Vote Count: No action taken, items 9, 10, 11 sent back to committee.

11. Adoption of Financial Disclosure Form for SFDFCC Members (Bylaws Committee)

Vote Count: No action taken, items 9, 10, 11 sent back to committee.

13. Resolution in Support of Youth Justice Reform (DeJesus)

Vote Count: Item tabled to a future meeting date.

14. Review and Approve Bid(s) from Request for Proposals for Slate Card Program (Campos)

Executive Director Adam Mehis gave background on RFP for slate card program, received one bid from Stearns Consulting; *Member Jung* asked for clarification on financial statements that include \$15,000 for Stearns previously; *Chair Campos* clarified that this was for “Proud SF Democrats” publicity campaign; *Member T. Hsieh* requested redoubling efforts to bring in women owned, minority-owned consulting firms and perhaps offering incentives; *Chair Campos* agreed and asked for help to publicize RFPs in the future.

Motion to approve: Member Baraka; *Second:* Member LaCroix

Vote Count: Approved by Acclamation

15. New Business

Member Gupta reminded members about summer internship program and asked for support to publicize to youth up to 25 years old, for diverse pool of applicants

16. Adjournment

Chair Campos spoke about Sharen Hewitt and how he always turned to her for advice on complicated and challenging issues, she was never afraid to tell you what she thought and he knows she played that role for other people in the community; *Member Maxwell* said Sharen was brilliant, very aware and came up with the most profound things, was a real woman warrior; *Member DeJesus* appreciated her work to bring youth out and her experience with her around Taser issue; *Member Peskin* reminded people about Sharen’s memorial service on Monday at Third Baptist Church; *Member Jung* echoed comments about Sharen and her work, advocacy, legacy, and need to appreciate each other and be kinder to each other, also wanted to remember Dennis O’Sullivan who passed recently and was very active with democratic politics on the westside; *Member Ting* speaking as Alex Walker remembered meeting Sharen and her mentorship when working on Ross Mirkarimi’s campaign, and reminded people to treasure every interaction; *Chair Campos* received note from Hene Kelly and would like to adjourn the meeting in honor of Shirley Breyer Black as an institution in SFUSD and first female president SEIU 790 (now SEIU 1021); *Member Mandelman* shared that Shirley was one of the first students when City College first opened.

Meeting adjourned in memory of in Dennis O’Sullivan, Sharen Hewitt, and Shirley Breyer Black at 9:09 pm.