

Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

February 23, 2015

Hobee's Restaurant, 21267 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Cupertino

Next organizational meetings: March 23, April 27, May 25

Next DFA-link meetings: March 2, April 13, May 11

Annual picnic and election: June 20

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: After a couple of minor changes were made to the agenda, Swanee Edwards moved that we adopt it as amended, Carolyn Curtis seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Mary Gill noted that Don Mayall suggested two corrections to the minutes from January regarding his two-year budget proposal:

“Last year we ... gave \$1000 to federal candidates and \$300 to a state candidate *and local measures (added)*, and we spent \$844 on overhead (P.O. box, printing, website, food for county committee meetings, etc.)” Delete: *About \$450 went to the J.J. dinner (“Other PACS”).* Barbara Comiskey moved that we approve the January minutes as corrected, Carolyn seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Don reported that we have \$5091 in the bank, about equally divided between the state and federal accounts. He sent a check for \$500 to the California Clean Money Campaign.

NEW BUSINESS

San Jose District 4 candidate visit: John introduced Tim Orozco, who is running for San Jose City Council. Tim gave a short talk, in which he emphasized his support for working people, LGBT issues, affordable housing, public safety, and restoring city services. He is endorsed by many progressives (Ken Yeager, Dave Cortese, Don Rocha, Ash Kalra, Paul Fong, Bob Wieckowski), by the Sierra Club, the League of Conservation Voters, South Bay Labor, etc. He then left the room while we considered the endorsement.

San Jose District 4 endorsement: Lucas Ramirez reported on the endorsement committee's recommendation. Another candidate, Alex Torres, was also interviewed, but the committee recommends a sole endorsement for Tim Orozco. After Lucas, John, and Barbara outlined the committee's reasoning, Lucas moved that we give Tim Orozco a sole endorsement. Swanee seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Ralph Wheeler moved that we contribute \$100 to the Orozco campaign, Barbara seconded the motion, and that too passed with no dissension. Don will send a check.

Mountain View City Council vote to look at disclosure: Lucas reported that the council has directed the city attorney to research a local version of the California DISCLOSE Act. This is a significant move, which may lead to local legislation on this issue in Mountain View and elsewhere.

Letter to Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors regarding oil and gas exploration: Joel Masser described a draft of a letter from the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter, the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, and former Gilroy councilmember Connie Rogers to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors (see attached). The letter is not yet final, but it urges the board to no longer issue permits for oil and gas exploration in the county. Swanee will be meeting with Supervisor Mike Wasserman on this issue soon, and she reported on a testimony by Connie Rogers in a recent public safety committee hearing. At Sargent Ranch just outside Gilroy there is oil extraction and plans for fracking. Joel moved that we authorize the steering committee to sign onto the final letter, which he will send us. Ralph seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DFA retreat cosponsorship: John reported on a day-long DFA retreat being planned for April 11, probably in Woodside or nearby. A national DFA representative would be present. We have been asked to cosponsor, with no monetary obligations. This would involve publicizing the event and encouraging attendance. John moved that we cosponsor, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Bylaws amendment: John reminded us that the roster of club members that qualify us for delegates for the Democratic party convention in 2016 will be based on membership as of July 1, 2015 (so that there can be no last-minute inclusion of delegates inclined to a particular candidate or issue). He passed around a draft for an amendment to our bylaws (attached). We will vote on adopting this amendment in a future meeting.

Future meeting dates: Marcene Van Dierendonck had brought up the problem of the DFA-link meetings on the second Wednesday of the month conflicting with the Peninsula Democratic Coalition board meetings. John had created a chart showing the meeting dates of local clubs. After much discussion, Barbara moved that we hold the link meetings on the second Monday of the month and the organizational meetings on the fourth Monday. Ben Stetson seconded the motion, which passed with no dissension. We then discussed the annual picnic and election, and John proposed June 13 or June 20. Swanee moved that we hold the picnic/election on June 20, Gerry Hunt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Margaret Okuzumi will make a reservation at Ponderosa Park in Sunnyvale.

The next link meeting will be on March 2 at the home of Alice Smith, 4284 Los Palos Circle, Palo Alto; snacks and conversation start at 6:30 and movie at 7:00. Courtney McDonald from Evolve will speak to us about reforming Proposition 13 so that commercial property pays its fair share.

Northern California CCMC Grassroots Summit February 28: Mary reported on the California Clean Money Campaign grassroots summit this Saturday, February 28, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto, from 9:00 to 4:30. There are 140 people signed up. CCMC is working on getting a version of SB 52, the DISCLOSE Act, passed this year. (SB 52 would have required disclosure of the top three funders of political ads for ballot measures on the ads themselves; it passed the Senate but met with labor opposition last year and was not moved forward in the Assembly.) According to Nancy Neff, Senator Leno is not going to be the author (due to a lack of commitment from labor), but things are looking good for an Assembly author and bill number by Friday. Discussions with labor are continuing. Carolyn volunteered to help Mary with lunch preparation, and Ben Stetson will be there all day volunteering. For more information or to sign up, go to:
<http://www.yesfairelections.org/contacts/index.php?q=civicrm/event/info&reset=1&id=636>

OLD BUSINESS

Task force reports

Good government: Covered earlier. Mary passed around an article about Jerry McNerney's proposed Constitutional amendment to curb campaign spending.

Economic justice: Ralph mentioned that Walmart raised their minimum wage. Swanee reported that Kamala Harris has approved the sale of the nonprofit Daughters of Charity hospitals to Prime Healthcare based on three conditions that will be difficult to meet: they must keep the hospitals open as is for ten years, fund the pensions fully, and pay off debt.

Environment: Covered earlier. Also, Mary reported that the March for Real Climate Leadership in Oakland on February 7 was very successful, with as many as 8000 people attending.

Social/criminal justice: No report.

Club building: We will have a club fundraiser/garden tour with a Cinco de mayo theme on May 2 or 3 (Saturday or Sunday) at the home of Sue Zaslaw in San Jose.

Candidates/campaigns: Covered earlier.

Outreach: John reported that Karen Porter has agreed to run for treasurer since Don is planning to step down. We need someone to run for corresponding secretary; that person ideally should work with Swanee on the invitations to the J.J. dinner, one of the main responsibilities of the job. Carolyn would like to step down as web master; she noted that this is the responsibility of the corresponding secretary, but that officers can delegate tasks. John noted that we may transition to the free website the CDC provides to clubs using WordPress.

Club membership: Ralph reported that we have 135 members (including 39 “paid plus members” who have paid for more than one year), 402 Facebook members, and 203 Yahoo members.

Announcements

- ❖ Carolyn announced that she had brought copies of *The Nation* for people to take.
- ❖ Gerry recommended the book *How Obamacare Is Unsustainable: Why We Need a Single-Payer Solution for All Americans*, by John Geyman, M.D.

Adjournment: At 8:28 p.m. Gerry moved that we adjourn, Carolyn seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill