



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

March 28, 2016

Marie Callender's Restaurant, 751 E. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

Next working meetings: April 25, May 23

Next DFA-link meetings: April 11, May 9

Annual potluck picnic and election: June 25 (Saturday)

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: Alice Smith moved that we adopt the agenda, Carolyn Curtis seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Mary Gill reported that Karen Porter had been in touch correcting the federal account balance in the treasurer's report from \$2988 to \$3306. John noted that he had moved his vote on the 2016 goals from Environment to Health, so Environment should have been tallied as 15 votes and Health as 4. Emilie Gatfield moved that we approve the February minutes with these changes, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: Karen was unable to attend but reported we have \$3674 in the state account and \$2977 in the federal account for a total of \$6651. The wildflower walk led by Carolyn Curtis and Don Mayall netted \$330, and we received \$317 in bounty money for voter registration, thanks mainly to the efforts of Marcene Van Dierendonck.

NEW BUSINESS

Candidate visits: John had kept a list of the candidates or their spokespeople as they arrived, and they were each given 1.5 minutes to speak, in order of arrival.

1. Ananya Panda spoke for Erik Fong, running for San Jose City Council District 6 and who was at a candidate forum and could not attend our meeting. She stressed Erik's background with parents who had struggled with cancer and inadequate health insurance, losing everything because of medical bills, and Erik's public service as a community advocate and supporter of a higher minimum wage. She highlighted Erik's participation in various local groups, such as the Lions Club and the Dean Club (he is membership chair of our club).

2. Barry Chang, running in AD 24, talked about his service as mayor of Cupertino. He has worked on the Lehigh Cement issue to hold them accountable for environmental damage, has been working on the problem of traffic congestion (he has a master's in civil engineering), and on improving public education, among other efforts.
3. Mike Kasperzak, running in AD 24, spoke about his 16 years on the Mountain View City Council, serving as mayor twice. He stressed his extensive government experience and noted that Mountain View has adopted a minimum wage increase to \$15 by 2018 and has implemented inclusionary zoning for housing that has produced hundreds of affordable units. They have also been working on improved transportation systems.
4. Jim Griffith of the Sunnyvale City Council spoke on behalf of Peter Allen, running for San Jose City Council District 6. He described Allen as a grassroots activist, an environmentalist, someone committed to smart growth, a hard worker, and a committed member of the Silicon Valley Young Democrats. Allen's endorsements include the League of Conservation Voters and Assembly member Rich Gordon.
5. Dan Chapman spoke for Helen Chapman, running for San Jose City Council District 6. He stressed her work on the parks commission, on various neighborhood associations, and in the Silicon Valley Democratic Club.
6. Louis Moroni spoke for Josh Barousse, running for San Jose City Council District 8. He described him as a true progressive, hard worker, and mentor to many. He noted Josh's work promoting progressive values for other campaigns and his support for affordable housing and the environment.
7. Sergio Jimenez, running for San Jose City Council District 2 (Ash Kalra's seat), said that he has been living in the district for 13 years, has been chair of the parks commission, supports a minimum wage, and backs the gross receipts tax initiative. He has been endorsed by the Labor Council, while his opponent Elias Portales received an endorsement from the Chamber of Commerce.
8. Paul Perrera spoke for Denise Belisle, running for San Jose City Council District 8. Her main focus has been increasing opportunities in the Evergreen area, trying to bring in more small businesses and increase job creation. She also wants to protect the local hillsides from development.
9. Adam Pinterits spoke for Anna Caballero, running in AD 30. He described her as the most experienced candidate in the race, having been an attorney for working families, mayor of Salinas, Assembly member from 2006-2010, and in Governor Brown's administration working for affordable housing.
10. Gina Gates spoke for Elias Portales, running for San Jose City Council District 2. He is a small business attorney, has done pro bono work for Casa de Mujeres and other causes, is on the Equal Opportunity Commission, and was deputy director of Newsom for California.
11. Jimmy Nguyen, running for San Jose City Council District 8, said that he is a lawyer but joked that he compensates for that by giving blood five times a year. (Jimmy has served on the Evergreen College Bond Oversight Committee and the Santa Clara Water District's Safe, Clean Water Independent Monitoring Committee.)

12. Vicki Veenker said that she enjoyed the DFA-link meetings and if elected in AD 24 would like to continue the tradition of the Assembly member addressing the club. Her endorsements include the California Teachers Association, the California Nurses Association, and the Sunnyvale and Silicon Valley Asian Pacific Democratic Clubs. Protecting the environment is an important issue for her. As a lawyer, she has served many kinds of clients, from victims of payday lending or wrongful eviction to foster youth to entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley.
13. Alice Smith spoke for Marc Berman, running in AD 24. Marc chaired the Peninsula Democratic Coalition for years. As a Palo Alto City Council member, he has worked on affordable housing, trying to stem the exodus of people who can no longer afford to live in the community. He is an attorney with the Silicon Valley Education Foundation.
14. Esau Herrera, running in Assembly District 27, stated that he was raised in the district (East San Jose), was an activist at Santa Clara University, has been a school board member for 25 years and strongly supports education and educators.
15. Ze-Kun Li spoke for Ash Kalra, who has served on the San Jose City Council and is running in AD 27. Li noted that Ash worked as a public defender helping people in need, has a strong record on education issues, worked to keep libraries open at a time of budget cuts, and even wrote a resolution against the Keystone Pipeline. He is endorsed by Jim Beall, Cindy Chavez, and Mike Honda, among others.

Candidates were asked to leave the room during deliberations. The endorsement committee members were John and Barbara Comiskey, Emilie Gatfield, Stephanie Grossman, Karen Porter, Lucas Ramirez, and Marcene Van Dierendonck. After having interviewed candidates and going through a strict process and much deliberation, the committee recommended:

1. Sole endorsement for Vicki Veenker for AD 24. After discussion of a possible dual endorsement or no action, Ralph Wheeler moved that we follow the endorsement recommendation, Carolyn seconded it, and it passed with 11 yes and 3 no votes. At that point, Vicki was allowed to return to the group since she is a club member and has voting rights.
2. Sole endorsement for Kansen Chu (AD 25), Ash Kalra (AD 27), Mark Stone (AD 29), and Anna Caballero (AD 30). The committee also recommended sole endorsement for Elias Portales (San Jose City Council District 2), Helen Chapman (San Jose City Council District 6), and Josh Barousse (San Jose City Council District 8). At this point, club members were invited to set aside any campaigns for which they wanted additional information or discussion. Emilie moved to set aside San Jose District 10, since candidate Mike Sodergren had filed late; she also asked to pull Helen Chapman. Carolyn Curtis asked to pull Kansen Chu. Emilie moved that we endorse the other candidates that the committee had recommended, Ralph seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Emilie moved that we postpone Mike Sodergren's race to April, Amy Samelson seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension. There was a discussion of whether Kansen Chu had endorsed Ro Khanna for Congress, but no one had any

evidence that he had done so and he was not listed on the Khanna website. Emilie then moved that we follow the endorsement committee's recommendation, Lucas seconded the motion, and there were 10 yes and 4 no votes to endorse Kansan Chu, so the endorsement was approved. Finally, Barbara moved that we accept the committee's recommendation for Helen Chapman, and Thida Cornes seconded the motion; however, Emilie proposed amending the motion to a dual endorsement for Peter Allen and Helen Chapman, which Alice Smith seconded. A discussion followed of Peter Allen's work on the Manh Nguyen campaign. Jim Griffith pointed out that Peter was paid a salary; it was not volunteer support, and that this fact should not affect the endorsement. When the vote was taken, it was 7 yes and 8 no votes, so a dual endorsement failed. Finally, a vote was taken to endorse Helen Chapman, and, with 10 yes and 3 no votes, the endorsement was approved. Emilie thanked the endorsement committee for their hard work and John and Barbara for their hospitality hosting the committee at their home.

Zephyr Teachout endorsement: Carolyn moved that we endorse Zephyr Teachout, who is running for Congress in New York's Hudson Valley and who was an important supporter of Howard Dean's campaign for president in 2003-04. This is an open seat with a strong red-to-blue opportunity. Stephanie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Carolyn then moved that we contribute \$100 to her campaign, Jackie Wheeler seconded the motion, and that also passed with no dissension. Karen will send a check.

Gun violence prevention: Lisa Shaffer from the Shir Hadash Organizing Committee described the Sensible Gun Violence Prevention Regulations Campaign in San Jose and asked for the club's endorsement. The proposal would require:

1. Storing firearms in residences in a locked container or disabling them with a trigger lock when not in the owner's immediate possession.
2. Reporting to police, within 48 hours, known loss or theft of a firearm.
3. Logging and tracking of ammunition sales within City of San Jose.
4. Prohibiting the possession of ammunition magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds.
5. Prohibit dealers from operating near "Sensitive Areas."
6. All firearms and ammunition must be secured in unattended vehicles.

The first four requirements were similar to those in the Sunnyvale Measure C, which many Dean Club members worked on and which passed. Barbara moved that we endorse the campaign, Emilie seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously. Ash Kalra has been asked to put the issue on the agenda. There will be a meeting of coalition groups who support this proposal on April 19 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Sobrato Center, Room Cupertino B, 1400 Parkmoor Avenue, San Jose 95126.

Measure AA, Bay wetlands: John had sent out information from People for a Clean and Healthy Bay on the need to protect the San Francisco Bay from sea-level rise, severe storms, and pollution. Jeff Cardenas outlined Measure AA, which would restore 30,000 acres of Bay Area wetlands and wildlife habitat, reduce trash and toxins, and increase shoreline and public access. The measure will be on the June 7 ballot; it would affect all

9 counties around the bay. Lucas moved that we endorse Measure AA, Alice seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Letter to Bill Monning: Joel Masser had brought a letter to Senator Bill Monning asking him to withdraw his bill to assess adverse economic impacts caused by shutting down the Diablo Canyon power plant (SB 968). The letter outlined the various reasons the plant should be shut down in terms of social justice, environmentalism, and fiscal responsibility and illustrates how it does not reflect the Democratic party platform. Alice moved that we send the letter, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Joel will send copies to local senators and Assembly members and others as he deems appropriate.

Nuclear energy resolution: Joel had brought a resolution against nuclear energy to propose to the California Democratic Party. John commended Joel on his work (noting that the platform committee chair of the state party praised the resolution Joel had written on water issues as a significant addition to the platform). The nuclear resolution calls for prohibiting (1) appropriations for new or existing power plants, (2) payments to communities for hosting a nuclear waste dump, and (3) new interim storage, (4) transport until the process is proved to be safe. It calls for authorizing research and development for safe storage of waste and for increasing safety at current temporary sites. The resolution also de-designates Yucca Mountain as a storage site. Joel moved that we adopt the resolution, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. John will send it to the Central Committee secretary to get it on the agenda.

Garden tour planning: Katie Dunlap was not able to attend the meeting, so a discussion of this possible fundraiser was postponed. Ralph suggested an ice cream social membership drive like the one held at Alice Smith's house some years ago.

Program director: Lucas reported that he is willing to work with someone to replace Marcene Van Dierendonck as program director for the DFA-link meetings. Emilie volunteered to work with Lucas.

OLD BUSINESS

Candidates/campaigns: Emilie and Mary will share reporting tasks for this committee. Mary had brought copies of a flyer for an event for Michael Eggman for Congress in CD 10, which will be on April 17 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Stephanie Grossman's house. She stressed the fact that Michael is running against a Tea Party Republican in a district that should be a red-to-blue opportunity, but that he is much in need of financial help and volunteers. For more information or to RSVP, go to <http://tinyurl.com/deandems>

Good government: Nancy Neff reported that the Voters Right to Know initiative signature drive was discontinued. However, it did attain 25 percent of the signatures needed to trigger legislative review. Bob Hertzberg has introduced a bill that would revamp the antiquated Secretary of State website (SB 1349), supported by labor, Common Cause, and the California Business Roundtable. This bill plus AB 700

(DISCLOSE, which applies to candidates as well as ballot measures) and a bill by Rich Gordon that addresses a loophole in requirements for lobbyists to register, will do most of what Voters Right to Know would have accomplished. AB 700 passed in the Assembly and efforts are underway to get it passed in the Senate. (Rich Gordon's AB 1200 has already passed both houses of the legislature.) There will be a grassroots summit in support of the legislation on May 7 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 Charleston Road, Palo Alto. For more information, contact Nancy Neff at nrneff@sonic.net.

Social justice: No report.

Environment: Covered earlier.

Education: No report. We need a point person for this task force. John will bring a list of people who signed up for the various committees to the next meeting.

Economic justice: Emilie noted that the legislature will be raising the minimum wage to \$15 by 2022; Ralph noted that many signatures were collected in support of this proposal, helping to drive the effort forward. The governor is expected to sign the legislation.

Health: No report.

Support the club and party: Covered earlier.

Club membership: No report.

Announcements

- ❖ Gerry Hunt was not able to attend our meeting, but sent an announcement of a screening of the documentary *Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point* on Wednesday, April 27, at IBEW Hall, 2125 Canoas Garden Avenue, San Jose. Refreshments at 6:00 p.m. and film and discussion at 6:30.
- ❖ Alice announced that she will be hosting a fundraiser for Jerry McNerney at 2:00 p.m. on June 12 at her home and urged people to attend. She is also involved in planning an event for Ami Bera at the end of August.
- ❖ The DFA-link meeting next month will be at Alice Smith's home, 4284 Los Palos Circle, Palo Alto. Derecka Mehrens of Working Partnerships will be speaking. 6:30 for snacks and conversation; meeting at 7:00.
- ❖ Lucas asked for people to endorse and support Joe Simitian, who is running for the County Board of Supervisors again. He passed around a form for supporters to complete.
- ❖ Andrew Munson, Mike Honda's field director, reported that Congressman Honda would appreciate any support or help in what is expected to be a very tight race.

❖ Thida Cornes announced that there will be a campaign coffee for her in Mountain View on Thursday, March 31. She is running for Mountain View City Council. If you would like to attend or know of Mountain View residents who might like to attend, contact her at: tcornes@gmail.com

❖ John asked club members who are planning to attend the county Democratic dinner on May 6 and would like to be seated with other club members to go to ActBlue to register and then send him an e-mail. He will be in charge of reserving a table for Dean Club members. The club thanked John for his competence and know-how on so many issues.

Adjournment: At 8:58 p.m. Lucas moved that we adjourn, Nancy seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill