

Minutes of the meeting of August 22, 2016

John Comiskey chaired; 7 pm at Marie Calender's

1. Attendees (24) went around the room and introduced themselves.
2. Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. Moved, seconded carried (msc)
3. Minutes msc
4. Treasurer: Karen Porter gave the report. Federal account: \$2325; state account: \$2531 She pointed out that you can use ActBlue to pay your membership and make contributions to Dean Dems.
5. Candidates speak about themselves (1 minute each)
 - a. County board of education District 3 Ed Chirco speaking for his wife, Judy. Married 48 years and lived in the valley 40 years. Jim Beall asked her to run for City Council, termed out as Vice Mayor. Blue-ribbon committees, including anti-bullying committee. Her passion is kids. Knows the neighborhood.
 - b. Larry Klein: Sunnyvale council seat 4; special election for interim seat; elected last week. Active for 15 years including 9 on the Planning Commission and other commissions, knows the city well. Endorsed by Jerry Hill, Evan Low, local past and current leaders; both pro development and pro neighborhoods. Understands land-use issues and making Sunnyvale better.
 - c. Sergio Jimenez' representative: His mother was a single-mom immigrant. He was first to graduate from college in his family; works as an investigator for the public defender's office. Wants to preserve open space for everyone. Is a family man and wants SJ to flourish. SJ City Council District 2.
 - d. John Cordes, Sunnyvale District 4: Greener than Larry Klein; mobile parks house 2000 people, and people are scared of losing their affordable housing. Received sole endorsement of environmental group. Relates to neighbors; goes to planning commission to speak out for environmental causes. Sierra Club chapter director for 2 years and political chair for a decade. Endorsed by SJ Mayor, and many environmentalists. For minimum wage at \$15 by 2018.
 - e. John McLemore: Santa Clara. Running against an incumbent who was a Republican until 4 years ago. 1996 to 2004 on the City Council. Has been president of Santa Clara Democratic Club. On executive board for 6 or 7 years. Was on Metropolitan Commission, on VTA and CalTrain. Opponent moved from New York just 12 years ago.
 - f. Emily, a representative for Nancy Smith: running for Sunnyvale City Council seat in November. Incumbent is a registered Republican. Sunnyvale is the second largest city in Santa Clara County. Residents left out of the discussion. Need to have people first. Nancy has experience, collaborative style and is an environmentalist and wants to involve citizens. Involved with Rotary Club and Democratic groups in the valley.
 - g. Jim Griffith spoke out to oppose Measure M: This measure would prohibit the city from selling, swapping or leasing city land without a public vote. Sunnyvale

Democrats, Labor Council, Santa Clara County League of Conservation voters all oppose the measure.

- h. Ahmad Rafah: refugee from Afghanistan running for SJ seat no. 7. Dedicated his life to economic justice and was a math and science teacher and then community leader. Works for Mike Honda and now is seeking election to the Santa Clara City Council.
- i. Yes on Measure B: .5 cents sales tax to add new cars to Caltrain, grade separation, electrification, VTA \$750m for expressway, Lawrence Expressway eliminates 5 stoplights near Santa Theresa; funding for highway 85 at Cottle, and \$150m for trails and pothole repairs...Endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce in the county except Santa Clara which hasn't heard their presentation yet.
- j. Rosemary Kamei...Board of education trustee Santa Clara County Seat 3: believes in being proactive and for the grass roots; walks, talking to people.
- k. Emilie Gatfield rose to support State Senate district 3 candidate Mariko Yamada: Napa, Sacramento, Yolo County and elsewhere.

Recommendations:

Moved, Seconded to accept the recommendations for endorsements of the committee: except Alice asked that Sunnyvale 4 be pulled and Nancy Smith's supporter pulled Sunnyvale 6 recommendation of no endorsement.

Sunnyvale 4 and 6 pulled.

All the other endorsements passed as listed.

Sunnyvale 4: Jim Griffith explained that Larry Klein received 60% of the vote last week. Larry is a land use guy; respectable land-use; Jim is supporting Larry. Sunnyvale gave dual endorsement. Emily was impressed with how he had plans for affordable housing ... making it sustainable. Ben agreed that both are good candidates but he would chose Jim. Thida Cornes met Larry at high-speed rail meeting and she thought he asked intelligent questions. Approval Moved, seconded, passed : for Larry Klein

Sunnyvale 6: Nancy Smith: running against a Republican; encourage more women to run for office. Emily: in a race with one Republican ... a strong statement. No action.. no endorsement is not the position. Gerry said she did a great job on keeping the club together. Various people spoke including Ben who said that the incumbent, Jim Davis, represents the city well... and he would vote for him regardless of what his party is. Publicly Jim Griffith has taken a no endorsement position. Karen Porter is in favor of women for election. Perhaps Nancy had had be a bad night. Ben said she couldn't answer why she was running and what she would accomplish. Not impressed with her. Not a compelling candidate. Emily G thought we should look at no action vs no endorsement. .. Thida: said that she and Nancy were Emerge candidate; not aware of the actions in Sunnyvale. Jim is neutral... .. Ben is for no endorsement.

Because she wasn't able to answer simple questions well. Moved and seconded to endorse Nancy Smith: Vote taken: 8 yes, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions.

6. Measures and Propositions

Straw Poll: only Proposition 60 was pulled by Alice Smith. All the other measures and propositions passed as listed.

Proposition 60: Alice asked for an explanation: it was explained that one wealthy man put this on the ballot to break the back of pornographic films. Weinstein who is funding this proposition has made the proposition such that he has standing so as not to get caught out as in Proposition 8; one person said this was a one man show .

Moved, seconded to oppose Proposition 60. 10/1 to support the straw poll.

Campaign: Adoption vs endorsements to be discussed at the next meeting. Also, how we should allocate our money. Red to Blue: - or various campaigns. Democrats to the House of Representatives v Senate races?

- f. Alice asked for a reconsideration of the no endorsement of Ami Bera. John reviewed the past vote...Ami Bera did not get an endorsement in January. More people in attendance then.
 - a. Alice spoke in support stating that Sheriff Jones (Ami's opponent) supports Trump and is a gun-toting Tea Party right-winger.
 - b. Vince: spoke in opposition because he feels Ami is not a progressive. Sees his voting record as more like Tom McClintock's.
 - c. Emilie Gatfield: spoke against endorsing in January, but sees numbers game in the House and will not speak against him. Ben Stetson strongly opposed to endorsing. Ron Wolf: spoke that it is narrowly balanced district. A pure progressive would never get elected in a Republican district. Karen Porter spoke out for Ami: In line with our position on gun regulation, affordable healthcare, other issues, and came in first in the primary. We need to support him. Will not tolerate Trump-styled rhetoric. Gerry Hunt: tight district and has voted on with conservatives on some measures but overall much better than his opponent. Ron: the whip can call upon people to vote with the party when necessary; he won't balk when it is the last vote. Vote: 6 yes / 5 opposed. No endorsement.
- g. Environmental resolution (Joel) Anti-fracking measure -- Joyce Freiburg spoke about Sergeants field in Santa Clara. San Benito: The San Andreas fault is 1 mile from where they are fracking. Joel's meeting with Joe Simitian September 22 moved to Oct 12th. Seeking endorsements to ban additional fracking... Joyce was not sure where they are getting their water from to do the fracking. Issue is the injection wells: in TX and OK, KA causes earthquakes. TX operation runs this fracking in Santa Clara County. No disclosing the chemicals ... Coalinga earthquake was manmade earthquake. Moved and seconded to prevent any expansion of fracking into unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County. Motion carried.

- h. Sierra National Monument: -
 - a. Ron heard that they didn't know anything about the resolution. No county commissioners, no major, no Nature Conservancy, ... bunch of individuals. Impression that there is not protection ... 1.4 m covered by wilderness designation. Says it does not make sense. What do the Democrats in Fresno, Tulare Counties, etc. say?
 - b. Table it: - Ron's proposal; who is behind these as major constituencies with land protection... Joel: National Monument adds additional protection which are over grazed and over logged; forest is not in good condition; needs better management. He has talked to local Democrats. Mooted this at the environmental caucus at the Democratic Caucus. Alice said she thought Diane Feinstein was not being lobbied because she has her own national monument she is seeking in Monterey Bay or similar.
 - c. Joel/Alice moved and seconded to support the resolution for the National Park, but only 3 voted yes so this failed.
 - i. New business: Progressive candidates (Vince)
 - How to flip the House.
 - 1 Use social media
 2. Work for Nevada Senate race
 3. Go to North Carolina for Senate race
 4. If we are going to have a voice in Washington need to work; he will send information in pdf form. You will have housing and campaign food ☺ if you go. Emily (EMILIE GATFIELD?) asked about helping one county in AZ on voter suppression. Anne Kirkpatrick and Voter Protection in AZ
Daryl Isse district ... winnable because there is a marine base and the Democrat is a retired military officer.
 - 5 DVC has telephone trees.
7. a. Alice announced Ami Bera event on the 27th at her home.
- b. Nancy Neff: Volunteers using CallFire got 447 calls transferred to offices of Senators in support of the DISCLOSE Act. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee and is now going before the Senate. We will have only a few days until the vote (Tuesday 8/30). Urgent to make calls to constituents of senators whose votes we need. Trainings available to help make calls: see cacleen.org
- c. Turnkey ice cream source – call Erik Fong
- d. Erik Fong gave a membership report. Alice agreed to email her friends who are in arrears.

Gerry handed out Proposition 59 information: YesonCA59.com

