

Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

September 26, 2016

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

Next working meetings: October 24, November 28

Next DFA-link meetings: October 10, November 14

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: Mary Gill moved that we adopt the agenda as amended, Barbara Comiskey seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Karen Porter submitted an edited version of the August minutes. Alice Smith moved that we approve the August minutes, Joel Masser seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Karen reported we have \$2671 in the state account and \$3325 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

Candidate visits: The following candidates each gave two-minute speeches in support of their candidacy. They spoke in the order in which they had arrived at the meeting.

Arthur Keller for Palo Alto City Council: On the Planning and Transportation Commission for 8 years. Co-chair of Citizens Advisory Committee. Lifelong Democrat. Has worked to elect Mike Honda, President Obama, various red-to-blue district candidates. Many community endorsements. Favors increasing housing for seniors, young people, and the most vulnerable.

Don McDougall for Palo Alto City Council: Wants a city that is sustainable for the economy, the environment, the people. Endorsed by Anna Eshoo, Joe Simitian, mayor and vice mayor of Palo Alto.

Representative for **Adrian Fine** for Palo Alto City Council: Adrian was born and grew up in Palo Alto. Wants to increase the amount of affordable housing and invest in 21st century transportation solutions, including self-driving cars. Endorsed by Rich Gordon, Jerry Hill, Silicon Valley Young Dems, among others.

Representative for **Margaret Abe-Koga** for Mountain View City Council: Margaret served on the council until she was termed out in 2015. Worked on raising the minimum wage to \$15 by 2018, community-choice energy, and many other issues.

Lifelong Democrat. Supports affordable housing. Endorsed by Anna Eshoo, many Dem clubs.

Kacey Carpenter for Mountain View City Council: Progressive Dem who campaigned for Bernie Sanders. Raised his children in Mountain View. Favors smart sustainable growth and public-private partnerships to get things done.

Emilie Ramos for **Lucas Ramirez** for Mountain View City Council: Lucas could not be present because he is chairing the Human Relations Committee. Progressive Democrat and longtime Dean Dem Club member. Endorsed by Anna Eshoo, Joe Simitian, Democratic Party, and others.

Greg Tanaka for Palo Alto City Council: Longest-serving member on the Planning and Transportation Committee. Small business owner. Favors more affordable housing. Endorsed by Rich Gordon, Jerry Hill, Kevin Mullin, 9 former Palo Alto mayors.

Greg Tanaka for **Liz Kniss** for Palo Alto City Council: Liz is a former Palo Alto City Council member, former mayor and former member of the county board of supervisors. She is the only incumbent running. Consensus builder. Numerous endorsements of legislators and Dem clubs.

Thida Cornes for Mountain View City Council: Dean Club member who many individual club members have endorsed. Also endorsed by the Santa Clara County Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood, DAWN, the Peninsula Young Dems, Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters. Favors affordable and diverse housing, 21st century transportation system including self-driving cars, green building, recycling of water. She is a Parks and Recreation Commissioner.

Endorsement vote: The endorsement committee, who had interviewed the candidates and reviewed their questionnaires, presented a slate of candidates to the club. After a lengthy discussion, Alice Smith moved that we endorse the following candidates, and Jackie Wheeler seconded the motion, which passed with 9 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 1 abstention. The following were endorsed:

Cupertino City Council: **David Fung, Rod Sinks** (at large, 2 seats)

Mountain View City Council: **Margaret Abe-Koga, Thida Cornes, Lucas Ramirez** (at large, 4 seats)

Palo Alto City Council: **Adrian Fine, Liz Kniss, Don McDougall**

Santa Clara City Council Seat 4: **Patricia Mahan**

Jackie then moved that we endorse **Patrick Ahrens, Laura Casas, and Peter Landsberger** for the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District board. Emily Ramos seconded the motion, which passed with 10 yes and 0 no votes.

Campaign adoptions and contributions: After considerable discussion, Jackie moved

that we contribute \$1000 each to Michael Eggman and Mike Honda's campaigns and \$750 each to Vicki Veenker and Ash Kalra's campaigns. Mary seconded the motion, which passed with 9 yes votes and 1 abstention.

Movement for Black Lives: Joel reported on a coalition of social justice organizations called Movement for Black Lives. He read a summary of their goals and positions on issues. It was decided to discuss the coalition and its membership further at the next meeting (time was running short).

Petition to *Mercury News*: Joel reported on a petition that club member Lisa Freed Shaffer started asking the *Mercury News* to withdraw their endorsement of Ro Khanna because "residents of Silicon Valley have had their privacy invaded and been harassed by the Ro Khanna campaign." This was after the Honda campaign filed a lawsuit against Ro Khanna for Congress alleging that the Khanna campaign manager illegally used proprietary information on nearly 10,000 Honda supporters. The files included personal information, cell phone numbers, home addresses, employer information, etc. John has already posted the petition to the Yahoo group and Facebook. John and Joel encouraged those present to write letters to the editor in support of Lisa's petition.

OLD BUSINESS

Task force reports

Candidates/campaigns:

Michael Eggman for Congress: Mary passed around a sign-up sheet for car pools for precinct walking for Michael in Tracy. The Tracy office is now open seven days a week. On Saturdays it opens at 9:00 a.m. and on Sundays at noon. *Tracy office events:* GOTV Launch will be Saturday, October 15. On Sunday, October 23, Congressman Ben Ray Lujan (progressive Democrat from New Mexico) will kick off a canvass at noon and one at 3:00 p.m. *Phone banks:* The DVC in Mountain View will be setting up specific dates for phone banks for Michael if there is interest, and there is also the possibility of phoning from home. Contact Mary for more information: marymcveygill@gmail.com

Ash Kalra for Assembly: There will be an event for Ash on October 5 at the San Jose Police Officers' Association, 1151 North Fourth St., San Jose 95112 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. RSVP: connie@sandersemerson.com

Vicki Veenker for Assembly: *Events:* There will be a family friendly event for Vicki on October 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Los Altos and an event with higher education and community leaders on October 15 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Portola Valley. In addition, an event is planned for Vicki and Nancy Smith (our endorsed candidate for Sunnyvale City Council) on Thursday, October 6, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. *Phone bank:* Wednesday, September 28, 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. For more information on any of these events: rsvp@vickiforassembly.com

Good government: Nancy Neff reported on SB 1107, which would overturn the ban on public financing of elections. The bill was passed by the legislature and is on the governor's desk. Volunteers with the California Clean Money Campaign are calling the governor via the CallFire system to urge him to sign the bill. If you haven't already called, please call Governor Brown at 877 287 6324 and urge him to sign SB 1107 into law. Contact Nancy if you can help make calls: nrneff@sonic.net

Social justice: Alice reported on an open meeting of the San Jose City Council in which the control of assault weapons and munitions was discussed. About 100 people attended. She noted how successful Sunnyvale was in passing gun control legislation and said she is working on trying to replicate their success in Palo Alto.

Environment: Joel reminded us of a resolution from the Sierra Club that we discussed at last month's meeting regarding prohibiting oil and gas development, drilling, fracking, well stimulation, etc. in Santa Clara County unincorporated areas. He asked for authorization to write a letter to the Santa Clara Valley Water District board on this topic. The letter will need approval by the steering committee.

Education: No report.

Economic justice: No report.

Health: No report.

Support the club and party: No report.

Club membership: No report.

Announcements

❖ Mary announced that there will be debate-watch parties at the Democratic Volunteer Center, 1970 El Camino Real, Mountain View (near Rengstorff Avenue) on Tuesday, October 4 (vice-presidential debate) and for the last two presidential debates: Sunday, October 9 and Wednesday, October 19.

Adjournment: At 8:57 p.m. Jackie moved that we adjourn, Emily seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill