



## **Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting**

August 27, 2018

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

**Next working meetings:** September 24, October 22, November 26

**Next DFA-link meetings:** September 10, October 8, November 12

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

**Adoption of agenda:** Ben Stetson moved that we adopt the agenda as amended, Jackie Wheeler seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Ralph Wheeler moved that we approve the July minutes, Gerry Hunt seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

**Treasurer's report:** Karen Porter reported that we have \$5547 in the treasury: \$1360 in the state and \$4187 in the federal account. The fund in memory of Don Mayall has accrued \$1200.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Candidate visits:** The following candidates each had one and a half minutes to address the club. They spoke in the order in which they had arrived.

Brian Wheatley, San Jose Unified School District, Trustee Area 4; [bwheatley4sjusd.com](http://bwheatley4sjusd.com)

John Cordes, Sunnyvale City Council, Seat 3; [john4sunnyvale.org](http://john4sunnyvale.org)

Leah Russin for Cory Wolbach, Palo Alto City Council; [corywolbach.com](http://corywolbach.com)

Helen Chapman, San Jose Unified School District, Trustee Area 2;  
[votehelenchapman.com](http://votehelenchapman.com)

Alison Hicks, Mountain View City Council; [alisonhicks4council.com](http://alisonhicks4council.com)

Mason Fong, Sunnyvale City Council, Seat 3; [masonforsunnyvale.com](http://masonforsunnyvale.com)

Peter Allen, San Jose Unified School District, Trustee Area 2; [peterforschoolboard.com](http://peterforschoolboard.com)

Pat Burt for Tom Dubois ([votedubois.com](http://votedubois.com)) and Eric Filseth ([ericfilseth.com](http://ericfilseth.com)), Palo Alto City Council

Darcy Paul, Cupertino City Council; [darcypaul.org](http://darcypaul.org)

Cassie Mancini for Savita Vaidhyanathan, Cupertino City Council; [savita4cupertino.com](http://savita4cupertino.com)

Tara Sreekrishnan, Cupertino City Council; [tara4cupertino.com](http://tara4cupertino.com)

Thida Cornes for Pat Showalter, Mountain View City Council; [patshowalter.com](http://patshowalter.com)

Pat Boone, Palo Alto City Council, boonecalifornia.com  
 Lucas Ramirez, Mountain View City Council, ramirezforcouncil.com

**Endorsement committee recommendation:** John reported that the committee recommends endorsing:

Cupertino City Council: Darcy Paul, Tara Sreekrishnan, Savita Vaidhyathan

Palo Alto City Council: Tom Dubois, Eric Filseth, Cory Wolbach

Santa Clara County Board of Education, Trustee Area 7: Claudia Rossi  
 (voteclaudiarossi.com)

San Jose Unified School District, Trustee Area 2: Helen Chapman

San Jose Unified School District, Trustee Area 4: Brian Wheatley

Alum Rock Unified School District:

Ernesto Bejarano, ernestob4arusd.com

Ray Mueller, www.raymond-mueller.com

Andres Quintero, www.andresquintero.com

Mountain View City Council: Lucas Ramirez, Pat Showalter, Lenny Siegel  
 (lennysiegelforcouncil.net, under construction)

Sunnyvale City Council: Mason Fong

Two of these races were pulled from consideration before a slate vote: Cupertino City Council and San Jose Unified School District, Trustee Area 2. The others were considered as a slate. Emilie Gatfield moved that we endorse the slate, Ben Stetson seconded the motion, and it passed with 22 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstention. Following that, the Palo Alto City candidates were considered: Cory Wolbach was endorsed with 21 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 abstentions. Tom Dubois received 12 yes votes, 6 no votes, and 1 abstention so the endorsement failed. Eric Filseth was endorsed with 13 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 1 abstention. Jim Griffith then brought up the San Jose Unified School District trustee area 2 and asked why Peter Allen was not considered, asking about a possible dual endorsement. However, after a discussion in which dual endorsements were opposed in general, no motion for a dual endorsement ensued. John Comiskey moved that we endorse Helen Chapman, Carol Miller seconded it, and it passed with 15 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 3 abstentions. Emilie then moved that we endorse Lucas Ramirez, Pat Showalter, and Lenny Siegel for Mountain View City Council, Ben Shapero seconded the motion, and it passed with 22 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions. Emilie moved that we endorse Mason Fong for Sunnyvale City Council, Jim Griffith seconded the motion, and it passed with 17 yes votes, 2 no votes, and 3 abstentions. Finally, after much discussion, a vote to contribute \$200 each to the three Alum Rock School Board candidates' campaigns passed with 21 yes votes.

**Endorsement committee interview schedule:** John announced that the committee will be interviewing candidates for Campbell City Council, Campbell Union High School District, Eastside Union High School District, and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

**Ballot initiative endorsements:** At our August meeting we had presentations on each of

the 11 ballot measures and asked for the people in attendance to submit their straw poll ballots. The result:

Proposition 1 Veterans and affordable housing bonds -- yes  
 Proposition 2 Homelessness prevention bonds – yes  
 Proposition 3 Water bonds – no  
 Proposition 4 Construction bonds for children’s hospitals – yes  
 Proposition 5 Transferring tax assessments from prior to new homes -- no  
 Proposition 6 Repeal of gas tax – no  
 Proposition 7 Permanent daylight savings time – no  
 Proposition 8 Kidney dialysis regulation -- no  
 Proposition 10 Local government authority to enact rent control – yes  
 Proposition 11 Ambulance employees required to remain on call – no  
 Proposition 12 Regulation of farm animal confinement – yes

Alice Smith moved that follow the straw poll results to support or oppose these propositions, Lucas Ramirez seconded the motion, and it passed with 21 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions.

**Proposed bylaws amendments:** Both John and Karen had proposed amendments to the club's bylaws, shown in red-lined draft and sent with last month’s minutes and also in separate e-mails by both John and Karen. One amendment would simplify how club funds remaining upon any dissolution of the club should be distributed. Alice moved that we make this amendment, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed with 22 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 abstentions. Another would strike a clause that gives excess power to a nominating committee. Carolyn moved that we make this change, Gerry seconded the motion, and it passed with 23 yes votes. Finally, Karen read through a series of amendments that would provide for the transition of the treasurer's duties to an assistant treasurer, if necessary; update the document to better reflect current practices (e.g., re: standing committees), and some make some minor formatting improvements. Gerry moved that we make these changes, Thida seconded the motion, and it passed with 21 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 abstentions.

## **OLD BUSINESS/TASK FORCE REPORTS**

There were no task force reports for lack of time except:

**Environment:** Carolyn Curtis will submit a Dean Club statement about SB 100 (which our club endorsed) for a press release if it passes in the legislature tomorrow: “California is leading the way for a greener economy by passing the landmark SB 100. We hope that other states will follow suit and that the bill will send a clear signal to the market to encourage more investment in clean energy.”

**Club membership:** Ben Shapero reported that we have 244 members (including 38 “paid plus members” who have paid for more than one year and 126 who are currently in

arrears), 715 Facebook members, and 312 Yahoo members. There are 6 new members and 10 new Facebook members so far this year.

### **Announcements**

❖ Nancy Neff reported on the California Clean Money Campaign activities. (1) Calls are being made on two important net neutrality bills, SB 822 and SB 460. There is intense pressure in opposition from AT&T, Verizon, etc. If you can call tomorrow with CallFire through CCMC, please do so. (2) Kevin Mullin's bill, AB 2188, the Social Media Disclosure Act, may have a tough time getting a 2/3 vote first in the full Senate and then back to the full Assembly for a final vote. If you can make phone calls in support, please do so this week, the last week of this legislative session. (3) After a lot of pressure against it from CCMC, other good government groups, and also both the Democratic and Republican parties, AB 84 failed.

❖ Alice Smith asked us to contact Governor Brown and urge him not to sign SB 10, the bail reform bill.

❖ Amy Wright announced the Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice march on September 8 will begin at 10:00 a.m. in Embarcadero Plaza in San Francisco: [ca.riseforclimate.org](http://ca.riseforclimate.org)

❖ Lucas Ramirez announced that the group that was trying to reverse rent stabilization in Mountain View failed to get enough signatures to get a measure on the ballot. He also thanked the club for our support.

❖ Karen Porter announced that on September 15 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. there will be an ice cream social and fundraiser at the Democratic Volunteer Center in Palo Alto for Flipthe14, the group that is working to turn Congressional districts in California from red to blue.

❖ Mary Gill asked people to mark their calendars for a fundraiser for Congressional candidate TJ Cox on September 30 in Palo Alto from 4:00 to 6:30.

**Adjournment:** At 8:59 p.m. Ben Shapero moved that we adjourn, Ben Stetson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill