



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

September 24, 2018

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

Next working meetings: October 22, November 26

Next DFA-link meetings: October 8, November 12

Holiday potluck and goals brainstorming: December 10

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself with name and city.

Adoption of agenda: Emilie Gatfield moved that we adopt the agenda, Thida Cornes seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: After a correction by Mary Gill, Ralph Wheeler moved that we approve the corrected August minutes, Gerry Hunt seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: Karen Porter reported that we have \$5455 in the treasury: \$770 in the state and \$4685 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

Candidate visits: The following candidates each had two minutes to address the club. They spoke in the order in which they had arrived.

Greg Scharff, Midpeninsula Open Space District, Ward 5

Kristin Rivers, Eastside Union High School District

Winter Dellenback for **Karen Holman**, Midpeninsula Open Space District, Ward 5

Wil Fluewelling, Cupertino Unified School District

Gustaf Larsson, Sunnyvale City Council, Seat 1

Maria Genza for **Lori Cunningham**, Cupertino Unified School District

Frank Biehl, Eastside Union High School District

Derek Grasty, Eastside Union High School District

Jodi Muirhead, Santa Clara Unified High School District

Frank Biehl for **Manuel Herrera**, Eastside Union High School District

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

Anna Caballero, CA Senate 12

Anne Souza, Campbell City Council

Gustaf Larsson, Sunnyvale City Council, Seat 1

Kristiina Arrasmith, Campbell Union High School District

Lori Cunningham and Wil Fluewelling, Cupertino Unified School District

Frank Biehl, Kristin Rivers, and Manuel Herrera, Eastside Union High School District

The Eastside school district race was pulled so that Kristin Rivers, a club member, could vote on the other races. Ralph Wheeler asked that we pull the Midpeninsula Open Space race. He moved that we endorse Greg Sharff. Carolyn Curtis seconded the motion. After discussion, it failed with 4 yes votes, 10 no votes, and no abstentions. Emilie Gatfield then moved that we accept the endorsement committee's recommendation for a sole endorsement for Karen Holman, and Barbara Comiskey seconded the motion, which passed with 13 yes votes, 1 no vote and 1 abstention. Emilie then moved that we endorse the other slate candidates, and Thida seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Following that, the club endorsed Frank Biehl, Kristin Rivers, and Manuel Herrera with a unanimous vote.

Palo Alto City Council: Karen Porter asked for a reconsideration of Tom DuBois for Palo Alto City Council and moved that we endorse him. Emilie seconded her motion "for discussion only." The club last month did not follow the endorsement committee recommendation to endorse, and Karen presented reasons why she felt we should reconsider. She said that she had looked carefully at his votes on the council and feels that he has a very strong pro-housing and pro-renter position. Several club members voiced the opinion that we have a process for endorsements, that the people at the meeting last month were not given advance notice that we would be voting on this again, and that voting to change an endorsement would set a precedent that could have some undesired consequences. Several others voiced support for Tom DuBois. When the vote was called, the motion failed with 7 yes and 10 no votes.

Central Committee dinner expense: John moved that we reimburse Gerry Hunt \$540 for purchasing dinner for the Central Committee meeting (split with the Stonewall Dems, the total will be \$270). Chris Roat seconded the motion, which passed with no dissension.

Campaign donations: John said that he calculated that we could spend as much as \$3800 on donations to campaigns and still have money for our expected expenses. He passed around budgetary background and information. One option would be to just give everyone who was endorsed \$100. He had other options, which were discussed. Herb Engstrom proposed that we give Anna Caballero \$500 since if she wins the seat Republican Anthony Cannella now holds, the state senate would have a Dem 2/3 majority. Mary Gill seconded the motion, which passed with 3 no votes and no abstentions. After a great deal more discussion, Chris moved that we set aside the federal candidates but follow John's recommendations on the state and local candidates. After some adjustments, Emilie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The result of this second vote:

Ash Kalra, AD 27: \$200

Tony Thurmond, Superintendent of Public Instruction: \$600

Malia Cohen, Board of Equalization, Area 2: \$100

Kalen Gallagher, San Jose City Council, District 9: \$200

Ernesto Bejarano, Ray Mueller, and Andres Quintero, Alum Rock School Board: \$100 each (in addition to the amount already received)

Frank Biehl and Manuel Herrera, Eastside Union High School District: \$100 each

Kristin Rivers, Eastside Union High School District: \$300

Jodi Muirhead, Santa Clara Unified School District: \$100

Helen Chapman, San Jose Unified School District, Area 2: \$100

Brian Wheatley, San Jose Unified School District, Area 4: \$200

Gustaf Larsson, Sunnyvale City Council, Seat 1: \$100

OLD BUSINESS/TASK FORCE REPORTS

There was no time for task-force reports.

Club membership: Ben Shapero had reported in writing that we have 246 members (including 37 “paid plus members” who have paid for more than one year and 124 who are currently in arrears), 710 Facebook members, and 312 Yahoo members. There are 9 new members and 10 new Facebook members so far this year.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill