



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting
February 22, 2021

Next working meetings: March 22, April 26, May 24
Annual meeting to elect officers: June 28

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: After one addition was made, Jackie Wheeler moved that we adopt the agenda, Gerry Hunt seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Alice Smith moved that we approve the January minutes, Amy Wright seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: Amy Wright reported that we have \$1939 in the bank: \$235 in the state and \$1704 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

Report from Lucas Ramirez: In response to a question, Lucas Ramirez, who is on the Mountain View City Council, described two 2019 ordinances regulating oversized vehicles on public streets in Mountain View. Parking is not allowed where there are bike lanes or on streets 40 feet wide or narrower, which is the case with most Mountain View streets. Residents had collected signatures to overturn the ordinances, but the attempt was unsuccessful. However, the ordinances are not being enforced until signs are installed on the streets that are affected. The first signs will go up starting in April and be completed by October or November. They will go up throughout the city in a geographical progression and end up near Rengstorff Park, where there are the highest number of RVs in the city, over 60. There is now a Project Homekey facility near Costco with modular units that can house 124 people; this is transitional housing but people can stay indefinitely during the pandemic. There will be 100 safe parking spots for cars and 70 for RVs. The city is trying to acquire the Crestview Hotel and convert its 66 rooms to supportive housing.

Report from Eric Stroker for Supervisor Otto Lee: Eric reported that people in a homeless encampment in Fair Oaks Park in Sunnyvale are now getting into housing (at least temporarily) in the old San Jose City Hall site. Their pallet housing or tiny homes have four beds, electricity, air conditioning and heating, etc. In Milpitas there is now a

Project Homekey facility. Jail reform is an issue currently before the supervisors; the Elmwood Prison is deteriorating and needs attention. There is also a need for more mental health facilities; Otto would like to see both needs met. Levi Stadium has been opened for COVID vaccinations; a review of COVID access has been initiated out of concern that eastside San Jose communities of color have not been getting vaccines as quickly as other areas.

SB 90, Ballot DISCLOSE Act: Nancy Neff reported on SB 90, the new Ballot DISCLOSE Act, replacing SB 636 (both introduced by Senator Henry Stern). It would add to the ballot a short list of supporters and opponents that signed the official arguments for and against each ballot measure in the voter information guide, up to 15 words each. The Dean Club had approved resolution of support for SB 636, which passed the Senate but got held up in Assembly because of opposition from county clerks. Nancy asked the club to support the resolution for the new bill; the only real change is that Steve Glazer is the new chair of the Elections Committee. In answer to a question, Nancy said that the county clerks' main objections were: (1) it would be too expensive to add extra space to the ballot (but there was a misunderstanding about how the information would be presented on the ballot so this objection is being overcome); (2) it would politicize the ballot (!), to which Nancy said that in that case they should remove the words "Republican" and "Democrat" throughout; (3) it would cause confusion because it would apply only to state measures and not local ones. The new bill has been amended in response to these objections. Nancy said that later on help may be needed to get Marc Berman on board. Lucas said that Mountain View will be amending city campaign finance regulations later this year; he would like to work on that issue for local measures. He asked Nancy to send him the bill's language, and she agreed. Nancy moved that the Dean Club pass the resolution, Amy Wright seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. John will sign it and send it back to Nancy.

Two-year budget: Before the meeting, John had sent out budget information that Amy Wright and he had prepared, showing actual and projected income and expenses. Comparing that the two, it appears that we need to do some fundraising to enable us to meet our goals. We do a lot of fundraising for candidates but not a lot for our club. There were a variety of suggestions: a speaker event, a panel discussion or a presentation like the one we do on the propositions, a membership drive, a meeting about pending legislation, a wildflower walk. In response to a question about whether we have information on all meeting attendees so that we can follow up with them, Nancy Anders suggested a virtual guest book could be saved in "chat" and Nancy Neff suggested a screenshot. John asked people to send him specific proposals for fundraising. He thanked Amy for all her work on the budget.

Recall Gavin Newsom: Mary Gill reported that the Recall Newsom campaign claims it will have 2 million signatures by the March 17 deadline; we could have an election as early as late summer. Already some prominent Republicans have declared an intention to run. In a recall, Newsom would not be matched head-to-head against other candidates. First there would be a yes/no recall question. If the yes votes prevail (to recall Newsom), a second question asks who should replace him. In 2003 Gray Davis was recalled; Arnold

Schwarzenegger was the top winner among 135 candidates. Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, who had had a rift with Davis, came in second with only about 1.5 million votes fewer. In 2003 Gray Davis had a number of problems: there had been an electricity crisis with rolling blackouts, the dot-com bubble had burst and led to a state budget deficit that had triggered an automatic increase in vehicle license fees, and Davis was criticized because he had signed gun-control laws and tried to prevent the enactment of Prop 187 (which had provoked antagonism toward undocumented immigrants). Currently, Newsom is being criticized for any problem that happens under his watch: slow roll-out of vaccines, charges that the Democrats won't stand up to the teachers' unions and open the schools, the EDD scandal, DMV data breach, etc. as well the French Laundry incident. Republican John Cox, who has declared he will run and has deep pockets, is attacking Newsom because the state has a high unemployment rate and many homeless. Mary asked for people to be proactive in case there is a recall, to start talking to people at meetings and events, etc. She is making a list of Newsom's accomplishments. While some commentators have stressed that no Democrat should run and the party should make that clear, John pointed out that there is fear of a Democratic stampede, with many running. It was remarked that if Dianne Feinstein resigned, Newsom could appoint himself as senator and the issue would be resolved, but in the meantime we need to be prepared.

Redistricting: Mary reported on an informational meeting by one of the commissioners for redistricting, Ray Kennedy. In California we now have 53 House districts (700,000 people); 40 state Senate districts (931,000 people); 80 Assembly districts (466,000 people), and 4 Board of Equalization districts (about 9 million people). California is expected to lose either one or two House districts. The commission that will redraw the lines for these districts will not have the census data until October 31, six months late. Timeline: November/December public input; mid-December first draft of new maps; January public input. The final maps will not be available until February 15 of next year. Close of candidate filing will be sometime in March and the primary has been postponed to June 7. There were many questions about candidates who are running, especially House candidates; how can they make decisions when they don't know where the district lines will be or how many districts we will have? John mentioned that to run for Congress you do not have to live in the district; however, there might be Assembly or Senate districts where you have two incumbents living in one district but none in an adjoining district. Since our club for many years has been working hard to flip Congressional districts, the lack of information about the number of districts and district lines is especially problematic.

Wildflower walk planning: Alice Smith will talk to Carolyn Curtis and get back to us about a possible event later this spring.

Annual election of officers: After some discussion about our tradition of an annual June picnic and election of officers, Gerry Hunt moved that we hold the election of officers on June 28 at our regular meeting but perhaps have an in-person picnic in August if it is feasible. Emy Thurber seconded the motion, which passed with no dissension.

SCCDP dinner alternative: John announced that if there is an in-person SCCDP dinner, it will not be until later in the year. Last year the on-line event raised close to what the in-person dinner would normally have brought in since some groups stepped up and gave generously; also, about three fourths of the funds raised at in-person events go to the venue, catering, sound systems, etc.

Goal setting for 2021 results: John had tabulated and sent out the votes on the top goals from the January meeting. He said this was made easier by using the Google forms and suggested that we do it this way in the future. You can see the results here: <https://ddcsv.info/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2021/02/Dean-Club-2021-Ranked-Goals.pdf> [Thank you, John, for setting this up and tabulating the results!]

Goal committees: John had created and sent out the list of task forces for this year (see "Old Business" with a list of this year's task forces). The numbers in parentheses are the numbers of votes for each category. For future meetings, people who allotted 5 points to a category will be the point persons for that task force, but anyone is free to report on anything related to the issue.

California Congressional Republicans: Alice Smith had requested that this be added to the agenda, but since it was already getting a bit late, she suggested postponing the discussion. She noted that Jamie Harrison is working on a 50-state strategy. She asked if California Assembly districts or counties were doing anything similar. John said that currently the county party is working on getting people vaccinated for COVID. Instead of asking people for money or their votes, they are focusing on service now. He emphasized the importance of having good candidates in every election; although Republican registration is under 20 percent in our county, they have an outsized influence in elections.

OLD BUSINESS

Good government (29): Nancy Neff reported on the voter suppression bills being introduced in Georgia. You can phone Georgia voters and encourage them to express their opposition to these bills; if they are amenable, you can connect them to their legislators directly. For more information and to sign up, go to: <https://sites.google.com/peopledemandingaction.org/center-for-common-ground/gavote>

Candidates and initiatives (24 votes): No report

Environment (20): Mimi Spreadbury reported that there will be a confirmation hearing for Deb Haaland for Secretary of the Interior tomorrow; add your name to vote to confirm at: lakota.law/confirm-deb-haaland

Social justice (17): Jackie Wheeler recommended the PDC panel discussion on racism, which is available to watch on line at peninsulademocrats.com. Mimi Spreadbury announced that there will be an event on February 24 with Nikole Hannah-Jones and

others on the 1619 project and provided a link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/champions-of-literacy-the-new-york-times-magazines-1619-project-encore-tickets-139482705527?utm_campaign=reminder_attendees_48hour_email&utm_medium=email&ref=cemaileventremind&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_term=eventname

Political outreach (13): No report

Economic justice (4): No report

Health care (1): Gerry Hunt announced that a single-payer health-care bill, AB 1400 (Ash Kalra and Alex Lee) has been introduced in the Assembly. Coauthors include Scott Wiener, Mike McGuire, and Phil Ting. Mimi Spreadbury announced that there will be a panel discussion on health justice on Saturday, February 27, at 2:00 p.m.: tinyurl.com/healthjusticedialogue Also, there will be a "Honk & Wave for Medicare for All" car caravan on March 6 from 12-2 p.m.: <https://fb.me/e/dDGjO6UdA>

Education (0): No report

Club membership: No report

Adjournment: At 8:56 Ralph Wheeler moved that we adjourn, Amy Wright seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill