

Minutes of the Executive Board of the Democratic Club of Sunnyvale

Date: January 24, 2011
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: 778 Steuben Drive, Sunnyvale

Directors Present: Vimala Balan
Kohl Gill
Claude Nahum
Margaret Okuzumi
Mike Serrone
Nancy Smith
Carol Weiss

Directors Absent: None

Call to Order: Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: One typo was corrected in the minutes; Ms. Okuzumi moved to approve the minutes; Mrs. Kohl seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Reports:

President's Report

- Update on the IRS. Ms. Balan and Ms. Smith called the IRS. They learned that the DCS is not a 527 because a 527 is for a specific candidate and also has stringent reporting requirements. The IRS contact suggested we be a 501 (c) 4, since with this the DCS could get a tax exemption. The Board will have to reconsider. Although the DCS does not raise or spend money on candidates, as a 501 (c) 4 there are restrictions on lobbying.
 - **Action item:** Ms. Smith will talk with Hillary Crosby and Pat Castillo. If the club backs out of the 527 status, it won't file paperwork, explaining that the club mischaracterized what it does. There was consensus agreement to do this.
- CDC Membership. The CDC is still non-responsive to DCS calls. Ms. Smith suggested the club forget about this and try again in a year, since its paperwork is on file. All that would have to be done is to update it.
- Meeting notification Policies. Mr. Gill is now sending out e-mail notices. He will be the point person for Facebook and the Meet-up Group and e-mail. Mr. Serrone will do SCCDP website; Ms. Okuzumi has been posting it till now.
- Endorsement Process. Ms. Smith explained that it is time to define and endorsement process and set a date for endorsement interviews. SUNPAC, a pro-business non-partisan PAC mainly comprised of developers has already set their endorsement interviews for September 1st. The Executive Committee agreed to continue working on the process started

at the January DCS meeting and to have a process to bring to the members by the March or April meeting. Ms. Okuzumi distributed notes typed up from January's general membership meeting, at which the Club's endorsement process was discussed. She stressed that to make an endorsement meaningful and to increase DCS's influence and build up its reputation, the Club needs to do legwork to support its candidates. It was remarked that none of the values discussed at the meeting were specifically Democratic. Mr. Gill commented that the baseline for endorsement must be that anyone the Club endorses has to be a Democrat, but the Club's values have not yet been articulated. A lengthy discussion then followed on ranked voting, instant runoff voting and caucuses.

Treasurer's Report

- ❑ Ms. Balan reported that the cash flow looks good. There is \$2,126.69 in the Club's checking account as of today.
- ❑ Club needs to promote members using PayPal to pay dues and then to renew them.
 - **Action item:** Mr. Serrone needs to add Ms. Balan's name so she can get account updates e-mail from PayPal.

Membership Report

- ❑ Mr. Gill reported that the Club has 47 members, 39 of whom have paid. There are prospects of quite a few more. Mr. Kolber has been calling all the members before a meeting. Mr. Gill will split up the list so that Mr. Kolber does not have to do all this himself.
- ❑ It was suggested that there be a sign-up list at each meeting for snacks.
- ❑ Mr. Gill will draft a survey on members' interests and preferences for meeting days and times. SurveyMonkey offers a good platform.

P. R. Report

- ❑ Margaret reported she would print fliers for the State of the Union pizza party organized by Carol Weiss on January 25. She reported that member Melodi Masonai promoted the SOTU event on the Organizing for America email blast earlier that day. She and Carol expect a lot of attendees at the event at Jake's Pizza
- ❑ Majority of Margaret's report provided under "Endorsement Process."

New Media Report

- **Action item:** Ms. Smith will e-mail suggestions for the new website to Mr. Serrone.
- ❑ Ms. Smith reported some activity on our Facebook open group.

Adjournment

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Weiss