Minutes of the Davis Democratic Club Board Meeting

Tuesday May 3, 2022

Place: Meeting at Blanchard Room

Davis Branch Yolo County Library

Davis, CA 95616

Since a quorum was present, the DDC Board Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by President Stephen Souza.

Quorum was 6 board members

Members Present: 12 board members were present at the beginning of the meeting. There were 12 board members at the end of the meeting.

President Stephen Souza

Vice President Rick Gonzales

Treasurer Ameer Alsawaf

Recording Secretary G Richard Yamagata

Corresponding Secretary & Publicity Giles Giovinazzi

Membership Chair Gary Hopkins

Newsletter Editor Carl Schmid

Past President Bob Bockwinkel

Board Members present: Jan Agee, Jonathan Howard

Ex-Officio present: The College Dems president Michelle Andrews, YCDP Chair Linda Deos.

ATTENDANCE: These rules are not in effect during the COVID19 Pandemic. The meetings are now being held in person starting today in May and these rules will be in effect.

The by-laws state that an individual cannot miss 3 meetings in a row. It also states that a person cannot miss 3 meetings in a 5 meeting reporting period. This is to prevent members from showing up every other meeting or 50% of the time.

Board Members absent: Bob Mar

Ex-Officio members absent: Bob Schelen and Bill Julian

There were 6 guests present. They were Delaine Easton, Dillon Horton, Skyler Blakestee, Cynthis Rodrigiez, Moises Diaz and Eileen Samitz.

A quorum is 6 board members. A Quorum was present at the meeting with 12 board members attending at the beginning of this meeting and 12 board members at the end of the meeting.

AGENDA

The agenda was presented to the board by the President, Stephen Souza, with no changes.

MOTION/VOTE

Linda Deos made the motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Carl Schmid seconded the motion. The agenda was approved with no objection and it passed unanimously.

MINUTES

The April Minutes were submitted by the Recording Secretary on line.

MOTION/VOTE

Linda Deos made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Carl Schmid seconded the motion. The agenda was approved with no objection and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT and COMMUNICATIONS

There were no comments from the public, though we had 6 guests at this meeting.

REPORTS

YOLO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Linda Deo reported that they were planning for the Yolo County Fair booth. The DDC usually mans the booth on Saturdays and there will be no problem for the club to maintain that date.

The YCDP is in the process of preparing the Democratic primary election slate mailers. She explained that there will be 2 slate mailers. The slate mailer announces YCDP endorsement of Lucas Frerichs for Yolo County Supervisor District 2, Measure H and Cynthia Rodrigiez for Yolo DA.

There is a major issue before the YCDP, that its endorsed candidate, Sheriff Lopez appeared at Republican fundraiser this last weekend. The e-board will meet and discuss rescinding its endorsement. The YCDP endorses and support Democratic candidates and Sherriff Lopez is a registered Democrat. It is hope that this issue will be talked through. At this point in time it is too late to remove his name from the mailer. They would have to put stickers over his name. Linda Deos as chair has no problem with this or the fact that he sought and received the endorsement from the Yolo Republicans. So in response to this, there will be a discussion whether or not this warrants a change in the by-laws of the YCDP.

DAVIS CAMPUS DEMOCRATS

Michelle came straight from aPlanned Parenthood march in response to the leaked Supreme Court brief that indicated the SCOTUS is going to reverse Roe vs Wade. The DCD plans to walk every weekend this month for the people that they endorsed. They plan to use their next meeting to phone banking for their endorsed candidates after their e-board election for the new year officers. She plans to introduce the new president, who ever that will be. They also continuing phone banking for their endorsed candidates.

They continue working on getting their bill of interest at the Sacramento Capitol. This last Wednesday their student housing bill sailed through the senate committee with 15 UCDavis students testifying for the bill. They continue to recovering from the Iindigo Awards. They need to plan their activities for the Summer and will discuss on how to best use the money from the fundraiser over the coming year.

Linda asked question about endorsing, which were about local races outside of Yolo County.

Rick asked about where they have canvassed in regards to Measure H and the Yolo DA race, so he does not overlap covered areas.

INDIVISBLE

Indivisible is currently doing deep canvassing of Davis. For those that want housing, they are distributing information on Measure H. For those wanting information on law enforcement they are distributing information about Cynthia for Yolo DA. They continue to do phone banking and postcarding. The postcarding is all for Cynthia for DA and they plan to mail 4000 postcards.

TREASURER REPORT

Ameer, our treasurer reported that we started out the month with $24329. The club made two deposits of checks totaling $4,026 and $2000 came from Act Blue, so we took in a total of $6,026. After spending $2000, a good portion of that went to YCDP as passed last month by the board. We ended up at the end of last month with $28,350.

Amer went on to say that we only have @$400 in the State account. He talked about how money can be raised by members putting a not on their checks that the money is to be deposited into the state account. He also said that money given by check and not by Act Blue, the club gets to keep more of the money. This is distressing to hear, because Act Blue asks for a tip, which does not diminish the amount of money that Act Blue charges for handling the funds. He also went into other ways that money can come into the State account, but I do not want to bore you with the details. We spent about 20 minutes discussing this. The moral of the story, you as a member should designate your donation to the State account if you are more concerned about state elections. If you do not designate your contribution as going to the State account, it goes to the Federal account. The Federal money can only be spent on Federal congressional and executive elections, like house and senate seats and Presidential elections. You also have to send in with your check information on who is your employer, what is your position or if you are retired.

What President Souza decided was that rather than spend so much valuable Board meeting time, we should form a budget subcommittee after the election that will be able to learn and understand the process and formulate the plan to deal with this problem of State money to be used for local elections.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The club continues to bring in record amounts of money as the club is now accepting money for 2023 dues. What this exactly means is that you can donate money for this years State elections in November and use that money to pay for your 2023 Davis Democratic Club memberships.

What we need is two bits of information. Who is your employer and what is your job description.

This led to a discussion that the club can donate $900 more to the YCDP.

MOTION/VOTE

Stephen Souza made the motion that the DDC will donate $900 to the YCDP. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Howard. The motion passed with Linda Deos abstaining. The by-laws allow her to vote on this motion, but she felt she ethically should abstain. Vote 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain.

Since 7 people from the Cynthia Rodriqiez for Yolo DA campaign were here at the meeting (4 from the public and 3 on the board) and stated that they needed funds to continue to campaign, President Souza made a motion.

MOTION/VOTE

Stephen Souza made the motion that the DDC will donate $2000 directly to the Cynthia Rodriqiez campaign. This money will be donated to the the Cynthia campaign in installments up to $2000 as money comes into the state account. This motion was seconded by Jonathan Howard. The motion passed unanimously, 12 yes, 0 no.

Upon further discussion, a third motion was made.

MOTION/VOTE

If it legal to do so, the club will add $5000 in funds to the State Account so that we will not have this problem in the future. This is to ensure the club will have to ability to donate money to state and local election campaigns in the future. The motion was made by Carl Schmid and seconded by Jonathan Howard. The motion passed unanimously 12 yes and 0 no.

A final problem remained for the Cynthia campaign. They are desperately in need of post cards and postage for further mailings. The club cannot pay for it because we have now maxed out what the club can donate. Individual board members would have to donate on their own. President Stephen Souza stepped up to fill part of the void, because he has post cards with postage on them already. There was also a link circulated at the board meeting where individuals can donate individually to the Cynthia for Yolo DA campaign.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Moises Diaz is working hard for the Yolo County Central Committee. Bob is asking him to think about joining the Davis Democratic Club board. He is not asking him to do more work, but he is asking him to do it more efficiently as a member of the club.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Gary reported that we have 128 members with 27 membership still pending for renewal this year. He stated that we need more new members and we need younger members.

Stephen Souza says we need $35,000 going into the Federal election. If the Republicans take over both the Senate and the House, he can see what HR1 and SB1 will be and no Democrat wants that.

NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be about the champagne brunch and about our meeting tonight, in person, after 2 years 2 months. Carl asked for all to pose for a picture for the newsletter and social media.

The newsletter will come out 2 weeks after the Champagne Brunch.

FUTURE MATCHING FUNDRAISING

Carl has been making the suggestion that club members that donate to the club will indicate who they support in an election and the club will match a portion of that donation to the designated candidate. By such a mechanism the club can leverage political contributions and as an individual your contribution to your favorite politician will be increased.

This is also because we many club members that have no idea on where contributed money will do the best for the party and they do not want to be bothered by campaigns as a Donor. A club committee will have to figure out how to do this fundraising and to find out the legalities of such a donor system.

It was decided that once the June primary elections are over, it will be clear on how best to donate or spend the money.

Linda Deos states that she is concentrating on State races.

The first order of business is to find out if it is legal to do this. The subcommittee will be made up of Carl Schmid, Bob Bockwinkel, Rick Gonzales, and Gary Hopkins. They will issue a future report to the board about the legalities of doing this and the nuts and bolts that will make it work, if at all possible.

CHAMPAGE BRUNCH

The upcoming 30th Annual Champagne Brunch will feature an In Memoriam program for Vic Fazio, who recently passed away. Different people and staffers have been invited, including Bill Ritter. Other people will be asked to speak, such as candidates that are on the slate mailer, including Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Mike Thompson, Lucas Frerichs, Cynthia Rodrigiez, and others.

Bob Bockwinkel will bring the champagne and orange juice. G Richard Yamagata will bring the strawberries and a triple chocolate mousse sheet cake. There is a sign up sheet that was circulated at the meeting to find out what other food the other board members will be bringing.

Robin Souza will be selling commemorative, Biden Inaugural champagne glasses at the event for the club. G Richard has been asked to ask the public through e-mail to fill in food items as donations to the club.

Canopies and chairs supplied are being supplied by Stephen. Able bodied board members are being asked to meet at 10 Am on Saturday at the 1133 Los Robles site to help set-up.

COUNTY FAIR BOOTH

The Yolo County Fair will be happening in August. We will circulate a sign-up sheet for 2 hour shifts. We have Saturday. The booth is near the Yolo County Sheriff booth, which may be important. We have been warned that The Proud Boys have been showing up to public events and counter demonstrating.

CHAMPAIGN BRUNCH revisted

Further question were asked about the Champagne Brunch. Board members were asked to have their favorite Vic Fazio memory to share at the program. Stephen Souza said he already had one picked out. Fazio staffers like Richard Harris and Bill Ritter also will share their memories of Vic Fazio.

The speeches will begin at 10:45 Am and State Representative Cecilia and US Congressman Mike are expected to speak first as they have other fundraiser events later in the day. We will not have live music, but will play I-Tunes from 10AM to 10:45AM.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Giles reported that the Facebook page continues to post the newsletter and public announcements like the Champagne Brunch.

G Richard Yamagata volunteered to revitalize the DDC Twitter page after a year and 2 months. He wants to do this because of the sudden attention being brought to the platform by Elon Musk.

KUDOS

Delaine Easton wanted to thank Moises Diaz for his work in organizing the team of volunteers to build the float for Democratic Central Committee. Many of the DDC membership rode the float.

Delaine Easton also wanted to thank Cynthia Rodrigiez for running for Yolo DA and attempting to break the Republican strangle hold on that office in the county. She stated that we all need to raise our voices in support for her. She said that it can fundamentally support our stewardship of young people with fundamental changes to the system. They, the young people, will have a better support system with her as the Yolo DA. Delaine went on to say that Cynthia has been actively campaigning for 14 months, versus her opponent's 4 months. She also stated that her opponent is the chair of the California DA Association that wants a criminal punishment, not a reformative, corrections system.

Eileen Samitz spoke as an open space advocate that is part of the Davis Democratic Club. She thanked Stephen Souza for his leadership at the last meeting. She stated that she was one of several people that would have left the club over measure H, if the club chose to endorse it. She said that some of those people have sat on the DDC board. She said that it was important at this time to have unity with principles that the Democratic party is built upon, fundamentally being attacked. She also thanked other board members for letting her speak and for their support.

Kudos were gliven to the Davis College Dems for their work on the float.

MOTION TO ADJOURN/VOTE

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Carl Schmid that was seconded by Jonathan Howard. The motion was unanimously supported by the board and the meeting ended at 8:10pm.

Respectively submitted by G Richard Yamagata on 6/6/2022 at 2:15am