Minutes of the Davis Democratic Club Board Meeting

Tuesday April 6, 2021

Place: Meeting on ZOOM

Davis, CA 95616

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by President Stephen Souza

Quorum was 10 board members

Members Present: 16 board members were present at the beginning of the meeting. There were 17 board members at the end of the meeting.

President Stephen Souza

Vice President Rick Gonzales - appeared at 7:20PM

Treasurer Ameer Alsawaf

Recording Secretary G Richard Yamagata

Corresponding Secretary & Publicity Giles Giovinazzi

Membership Chair Saira Delgado

Newsletter Editor Carl Schmid

Past President Bob Bockwinkel

Board Members present: Jan Agee, Jonathan Howard, Dave Griffin, Sean Raycraft, Gary Hopkins, Bob Marr, Tom Dowling, and Linda Deos

Ex-Officio present: The College Dems president Aurora Schunemann, Former YCDP Chair Bob Schelen

ATTENDANCE: These rules are not in effect during the COVID19 Pandemic

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: Francois Kaeppelin

Ex-Officio members absent: Bill Julian -– no attendance requirement

There were 3 guests present. They were Luba Schmid, Marie Bockwinkel, Kevin Rotenkolber

A quorum is 10 board members. A Quorum was present at the meeting with 16 board members attending at the beginning of this meeting and 17 board members at the end of the meeting.

AGENDA

The agenda was presented to the board by the President, Stephen Souza. He proposed that the report about the Newsletter be moved from the report section of the meeting to after Communications, because Newsletter Editor Carl Schmid has to leave the meeting early.

MOTION/VOTE

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

MINUTES

The minutes from March 2nd had been uploaded to the server and an e-mail sent out to the board. Bob Bockwinkel made the motion to approve the agenda as submitted with no changes. Linda Deos seconded the motion. The March 2021 minutes were approved with no objection and they passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Under DDC President's report, Stephen Souza requested that the board have someone with the ability to launch the Zoom Meetings in case Stephen Souza is unable to initiate the meeting. Saira volunteered to lead the meetings as administrator. There were no objections to her becoming administrator. Stephen said that he would implement Saira as an administrator for the DDC Zoom account. Saira was wished a happy birthday by the board.

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter editor Carl Schmid has an unresolved newsletter problem reached out to Anne or Dave griffin. At this meeting is that he scheduled to get together with Dave Griffin to fix the problem. Bob Bockwinkel stated that Francois is back in town.

Carl stated that in the upcoming newsletter it will have an updated donors list with Saira and he thanked her for spending the time to do this.

He reported that in the next newsletter, Calvin Handy is an expert on police community relations on a global level and will write an article in the next newsletter about this issue. Another article is being written by Sheila Allen, chair of human relations commission for a local perspective on this issue. This will be a nice balanced newsletter combination. Next month Lucas Frerichs will write on what the Davis City council actully voted upon in regards to Police-Davis community relations.

Carl requested that he be sent what happens at this meeting concerning the two resolution that would be discussed tonight. The first is what the board decided on what the position of the DDC will be on the perceived violence that has recently surfaced concerning violence against Asians in the country. The second motion has to do with what the board decides on what to do about the proposed resolution to support Jesse Salinas' group effort at young voter registration and youth volunteering to support voter registration in Yolo County high schools.

Linda Deos was contacted by John Mott Smith. He is asking for a section for activist news in the newsletter. Linda stated that it looks like we are doing this with the police-community articles. Carl stated that we use to have a calendar page that announced and organized community meetings.

Carl replied in part, the calendar page had disappeared with covid. If there are activities, we could restart the calendar page. Linda gave thanks to him for all of these things that have been happening and will happen in the newsletter, along with President Stephen Souza.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Stephen Souza acknowledge the presence of Jill and Warren Picket at the meeting. There was no public comment at this meeting.

COLLEGE CAMPUS DEMS

Aurora report the group has been active on getting state level legislation that concern student interests written. The group has set the date for their annual fundraiser, The Indigo awards on May 21st is a completely virtual event. They have confirmed Alex Lee will be the alumni award winner and they are working on naming the state wide and local award winners. She expects to be back next month seeking a donation from the Davis Democratic Club to this event.

INDIVISIBLE YOLO

Linda Deos reported that Sister District is meeting at the same time as this board meeting. So, she asked the board what it thought of that conflict in meeting times. Indivisible remains active in the Community of Davis and is in the process of getting things done. She then moved on to the YCDP.

YOLO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

They have been doing a lot of organization work at YCDP. Linda thanked Sean and Saira for their hard work on organizing things so that YCDP can be more productive in the challenges in the future. They are planning to be involved in the recall of the governor campaign, the Republican targeting of Garamendi's seat, and in the West Sacramento elections.

Linda once again gave thanks to Bob Schelen for 10 years of service as Chair of theYCDP. There will be a fundraiser event for Bob Schelen on April 21st for his service to the YCDP. They have raised $8,700. Clubs have been giving money. Labor has been giving money and various companies have given money.

Linda asked for money from the club at $5000 from the club to the YCDP. She would like to hear a discussion of donating money to the YCDP. She offered to share the budget and planned expenditures for the future in case the club was hesitant to hand out the money. There was no discussion as to how much of the money would go to honoring Bob Schelen and how much would go to the Fall Fundraiser event, traditionally the Bean Feed.

President Souza asked for a report from the treasurer before discussing the donation to the YCDP. We have administrative costs now that need to be covered.

TREASUERS REPORT

Ameer reported that we started out March with $19,754. The break down is $18,991 in the Federal and $763 in the State account. The club had two deposits $525 checks $251 act blue Expenses are about $200 for the two deposits and $66 expense bill came in from Act Blue. [Secretary note: that means 25% of the money for the two checks went to River City and 26% of the March income went to act blue, which could have been part of the previous month's costs. The net result is that about 25% of the income into the club is going to the River City and Act Blue who are both handling the money.]

The total in the state and federal accounts is about $20,400 [20,264 from my calculations].

Linda asked Ameer if there are big expenses coming up for the Davis Democratic Club that he anticipates? Ameer stated that in the next 90 days he does not forsee any huge expenses to the club beyond what is usually given.

Bob Bockwinkel stated that we should give the $5000 over the next 3 months. The YCDP wants the contributions before the fiscal year ends on July. Sean spoke in support of splitting the donation. He said that his union and he will be giving $1000 each. Giles spoke in support of giving the 3 payments to the Central Committee. He said that a lot of energy is going into the efforts of the Central Committee. He wants to continue and support in continuing this energy and he feels that this donation would greatly continue the work of the YCDP. Dave stated that the YCDP has aggressive plans for the YCDP over the next 2 years. They want to pay off the debt so that they can go out and raise more money than just paying off debt. Dave stated that the DDC is a key fund raising partner group in the county and he hopes that other clubs will be able to be equally supportive over the coming year and that DDC continues to help lift up other county clubs, so that they can raise more money. He said that the DDC. Saira also stated her support for the motion. She stated that the DDC wants to support the work of the central committee. She stated that Francois and Dave have been instrumental in helping the YCDP and the clubs. This money will make sure that more good work continues.

MOTION

Bob Bockwinkel proposes that $5000 will be donated in 3 checks over the next 3 months. Giles formalized the motion to break up the check into 3 payments of $2000, $2000, $1000 over the next 3 months. Bob Seconded the formal motion.

Jan asked if Ameer objected to $5000 donation. He was concerned that going forward that someone will come to the club and the club will not have money to donate. We started out this year with a huge fundraising effort and he sees a slowdown in donations from now until the end of th eyear. He stated that last year the club gave $3000 to the YCDP, which was 15% of what the club took in that year. He proposes that we give only $3000 this year, not $5000. After much discussion, Ameer wanted to limit the donation to only $3000.

MOTION/VOTE

President Souza asked if there was a second to the motion and Jonathan Howard said that he seconded the motion. Just to be clear, Bob Bockwinkel made the motion. Giles Giovinazzi restated the motion and amended it to be made in three payments. Bob Bockwinkel seconded this motion. Jonathan Howard seconded the motion again, so we had two seconds to the motion.

The motion passed with 17 votes aye and one no vote, so the motion carries forward with on objection.

TREASURY SUBCOMMITTEE

President Souza stated that the sub committee was formed over Treasurer Ameer Alsawaf's concerns that continued expenses will end up putting us in a position that may not be financially tenable. [This was converted into real numbers last month by me in the minutes. The minimum amount that needs to be paid is $200/month to River City. When the club raises money, 20% of the money goes to River City for keeping track of the money for the State and Federal reports that concern the money. This means that if the club raises $20,000, $4000 goes to River City Accounting.] This sub-committee was tasked with meeting discuss ways to bring down costs of reporting the campaign funds the club takes in. Ameer stated that he is very busy in the upcoming months with his own firm and would not be available to work on this sub-committee. Ameer stated that he is trying to receive reports on what the exact cost are from River City, which may bring down the charges.

Kevin Rotenkolber has been looking at the past filings by the club. He states that these forms are ones that he is familiar with and he has trained people on how to fill out the forms and send in the reports. He does not claim to be an expert, but he has filed the forms for various political organizations. He says that it should be very easy to do.

Kevin also was critical of River City in regards to the December 2020 form. River City reported all of the funds as Federal Money, which means everything was done through the Federal account. They also filed late, which means a late fee was charged. It is unclear if the club paid the late fee or River City paid the late fee. Bob Schelen defended River City and said that it was all explained why this happened. Bob Schelen supports the club to continue to use River City for the reporting, because he says that losing the small amount paid for the reporting [20%] is better than losing all of the money, like what happened over 10 years ago.

Kevin went on to say that no State reporting form was filled out. The State requires the form to be filled every 6 months and need to be updated every 6 months. Bob Schelen stated that filling out the form is not the only issue. Whoever is doing the filing needs to continually be updated on how to file the forms and the laws behind filing the forms. Bob stated that it is better to have a professional firm do the filings rather than left to an amateur.

Presiden Souza stated that he does not like the fines. He stated that River City does not have the ultimate responsibility and liability. He also does not like spending money as overhead rather than taking the money and giving it to where it is needed. At this point, if we are not raising large amounts of money, the fees should be low [but the club needs to pay $200/month to River City to over see the accounts.] It was brought up that the fees River City charges are increasing. In regards to the fee hikes, we should be looking at this in a couple of months. So, there is no motion, just a report. Ameer and Kevin remain part of the subcommittee and will meet after the current tax season is over after the 15th of June. President Souza says that this sub-committee may go on for some time into the future.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Bob state that he has no new people to nominated to the board. He stated that eventually he wants to have Kevin on the Board. He has financial expertise and Bob would like see another financial person on the board.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITEE

Stephen Souza mentioned again that today was Saira's Birthday. Membership Chair Saira Delgado reported that the DDC had 106 memberships renewed so far for 2021. Saira will send out red dots on the next newsletter. So, she expects an increase in donations in the next couple of months. She stated that we have finalized the number of members for the re-chartering check to the YCDP. She stated, that concludes her report this month. The fee is $1 per member. There were 162 households. The member number needs to be recalculated. [in past years, it has been 1.5 people per household, so the number should be around 243 individuals]. President Souza asked if this could be part of the $5000 that was being donated to the Central Committee. She said that would not be fair to the Davis College Campus Dems, who have already sent in their money for re-chartering.. It was stated that Linda Deos is a stickler for rules as what has been seen at the monthly Central Committee meetings.

GENERAL MEETINGS

President Souza stated that the club still has a moratorium on having public fundraiser events. This affects the club's ability to raise funds from the two $3000 necklace brooches that Dick Luna wants to donate to the Davis Democratic Club. From the financial campaign laws that govern raffles, it would be best to raffle off the brooches at an in-person public fundraiser event. This would keep the club out of trouble. Bob Bockwinkel agreed to this statement and stated that the club has done raffles at the fundraiser events.

Stephen noted that G Richard Yamagata noted that the 69th anniversary of the founding of the Davis Democratic club is coming up. The accepted date for the founding of the club is in September for the chartering of the club and the first potluck was held the first Thursday in September 1950. There is a two year lapse between the first meeting and the chartering of the club by the Yolo County Democratic Central Committee.

He said that we need to put this on the agenda to see if we want to flesh this out to see what will be done like a virtual event.

FINISHED/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none noted.

SOCIAL MEDIA/WEB SITE

Giles Giovinazzi reported nothing significant is happening with the DDC social media accounts. There was a statement that people on the web site committee were meeting this Thursday to help Carl load the newsletter up to the club web site.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Bockwinkel introduced this item of new business. This is a request for $500 from the DDC to fund 200 t-shirts for Jesse Salinas' Octoberfest, a fundraiser for student involvement in voter registration and civic awareness. Rick Gonzales working with our county registrar to plan a fun Octoberfest event for young people, aimed mostly at high school students. Rick Gonzales talked to Ink Monkey and they said that they can make 200 t-shirts for $500.

Stephen stated to Bob that we can donate money to an organization, but we cannot dictate on how the organization spends the money. It would be best, if the club wants the t-shirts to be made, that the club donates the t-shirts.

It was brought up that Ink monkey is a non-union shop. The Davis Democratic Club is a strong supporter of Unions and as such should have the t-shirts made by a union shop and have the Union Bug on them. It was further brought up that accepting money from the DDC could cause problems for County Recorder Jesse Salinas, since he is suppose to be non-partisan in that elected office. It may cause a problem for Jesse Salinas, who is already under attack according to Bob Schelen, He will personally make up the difference Aurora that the t-shirts be printed at a non-union shop.

MOTION

Bob stated that he would like to donate the money to the Octoberfest and that it be used to help Salinas purchase the t-shirts by providing $500. [There was an e-mail from ex-officio Board Member Bill Julian that asked for t-shirts to be made.] There were no seconds to this motion. G Richard Yamagata submitted a substitute motion that the club donate t-shirts. The club would put up $500 for the t-shirts to be made. Sean stated that he would make up the difference that having a union shop printed the union. The motion was amended to include that the t-shirts be a union shop with a total of $500 coming from the club towards the printing.

Ameer wanted to clarify what is exactly being printed on the t-shirts. There was no clear picture. The question is whether it is money or t-shirts.

Carl made a substitute, substitute motion and that the DDC just give Jesse Salinas $500. This motion was seconded by Dave.

VOTE

There were 15 aye votes and 2 no votes and the motion passed.

MOTION

Resolution against hate crimes and violence aimed at Asians and Asian Americans. The Davis Democratic Club has been asked to take a public stand against hate crimes and violence against Asian Americans. Saira has volunteered to write up the resolution accepted by the DDC Board based upon resolutions passed by Woodland City Council and the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. President Souza asked for permission by the board to write the resolution and submit it as public statement by the DDC against hate crimes and violence against Asian Americans. The motion was made by Jonathan Howard and Seconded by Bob Marr. The resolution will be written by Saira with the help of President Stephen Souza.

 .

VOTE

The motion passed with no objections.

Last item Saira offered to write up a statement from two Yolo Supervisors.

KUDOS

Linda Deos gave kudos to Bob Schelen for his 10 years of service to the YCDP and for allowing the YCDP to raise money using his name. Dave Griffin wanted to remind the board to turn out for this event.

Bob wanted to thank and give kudos to Bob Bockwinkel and Rick Gonzales for their efforts at promoting youth and voter registration by way of the Octoberfest, even though he objects to the DDC donating money because of the non-partisan nature of the event and the Yolo County Clerk Office promoting the event.

Bob Schelen also wanted to thank Stephen Souza for continuing to lead these DDC Zoom meetings with excellent leadership.

No other kudos or announcements were made at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

We will continue to meet using ZOOM, the first Tuesday of each month until June 2021 Meeting. At this time Aurora wanted to place on next month's meeting the agenda item of a donation in support to the Davis College Dems Indigo Awards of $1000.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Carl Schmid made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Jonathan Howard. The board voted to adjourn with no objections. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by G Richard Yamagata May 5, 2021 for approval at the June board meeting. .