

Minutes of the Executive Board of the Democratic Club of Sunnyvale

Date: September 24, 2012
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: 778 Steuben Drive, Sunnyvale

Directors Present: Vimala Balan
Terry Fowler
Claude Nahum
Nancy Smith
Carol Weiss
David Wessel

Absent: Margaret Okuzumi

Call to Order: Mr. Wessel called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Fowler moved approval of the minutes, Mr. Wessel seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Discussion items : 1. October 20, 2012 General Membership Meeting.
Ms. Rosenblum, the Sunnyvale Library Director, will speak at the October 20 meeting, for about 20 minutes. She has asked to be early on the agenda.

There followed a discussion as to what should be the content for the remainder of the meeting. It was decided that the candidates for the Water District Board would be asked to attend and speak about their candidacy. The candidates are Roger Kwok and Nai Hsueh.

Action item: Ms. Smith will refer the candidates to Mr. Wessel for follow-up.

Action Item: Mr. Wessel will speak to Dennis Chiu about becoming the Vice President of Messaging. It was suggested that he wait until after the elections to speak with Mr. Chiu. If the latter is agreeable, then his name will be put in nomination at the January meeting.

2. January, 2013 meeting. Ms. Okuzumi suggested that the Downtown Streets Team and the Stevens Creek Trail Team be invited to speak.

3. Bylaws Report: Mr. Wessel distributed a slightly amended draft version of the bylaws. The bylaws committee held one meeting during the summer. Committee members are: Brandon Sulser, Chair, Phyllis Freeman, Vimala Balan, David Wessel and Sandra (Sam) Hayn.

This draft version was submitted to the Executive Committee for further comments.

Ms. Smith requested an old version of the bylaws to compare with the draft version of the new bylaws.

Action item: Mr. Wessel will e-mail this to the Executive Committee.

4. Holiday Party: In lieu of a December general meeting, as is the Club's tradition, there will be a holiday party on Sunday December 16 at Fairbrae.

Action item: Ms. Weiss will speak with Mr. Serrone to confirm the date.

Action item: Mr. Wessel will ask for volunteers to work on the holiday party at the October general membership meeting.

Action item: Ms. Weiss will send minutes of the Executive Committee meetings to Mr. Serrone for posting on the Club's website.

4. Growing the Membership: Mr. Nahum will convene the membership committee. This consists of Ms. Okuzumi, Mr. Serrone, Ms. Margaret Schmidt, Mr. Kevin Platt, Ms. Joan Coston and Mr. Nahum.

Action item: Mr. Nahum and Ms. Balan need to reconcile two different data bases of membership lists.

5. Vice President of Messaging: Candidates for this position are Dennis Chiu and Richard Kolber. Mr. Fowler talked with Dianne McKenna about the Club, but has not heard back from her.

Action item: Mr. Fowler will invite Ms. McKenna to the next DCS meeting.

Mr. Wessel stressed the importance of this role, as it puts a public face on the Club.

Action Item: Ms. Smith will contact Mr. Angelo Lopez to see if he might consider becoming the Club's V.P. of messaging.

6. Finances: Ms. Balan reported that as of September 24, 2012, the current assets of the Club are \$2881.90.

7. Fundraising Discussion: Should the DCS become involved in fund-raising for the candidates the Club endorses? It was noted that the Club did not come through for the candidates it endorsed in the last round of elections. On the other hand, it was also noted that fundraising for a candidate gives the club "clout". Mr. Wessel wants the Club to fundraise to help expand the Club. Mr. Nahum stated that then the Club would have to set itself up legally beforehand to do so. Ms. Smith added that the Club IS able to fundraise for a national candidate. Mr. Wessel wants to set up a time to discuss how to fundraise. Ms. Smith commented that training will be available next year, by the Democratic party, since it will be an off-year.

Action item: Mr. Fowler will report to the Executive Committee on possible reasons for fundraising, how to go

about fundraising, and the legal ramifications if the Club decides to fundraise for candidates.

Action item: Ms. Smith will forward the lawyer's notes on fundraising to the Executive Committee.

8. Sunnyvale's presence at the Democratic Volunteer Center in Menlo Park. In response to Emy Thurber's request, Mr. Wessel and Ms. Weiss will commit to phonebanking at the DVC Sunday afternoons and will drive other members there; Mr. Nahum will commit to Thursday evenings and will likewise drive other members there.
9. Goal Setting: This should be done early in the year. Should the DCS play an active role in recruiting members for city council seats? At a future Executive Committee Meeting, discuss how to structure this for a general membership meeting. It was suggested that Jill Cody be invited to a special Executive Committee Meeting in November for this purpose.

Action item: Mr. Fowler will draft a letter of recommendation for city manager Gary Luebbers to be read at a city council meeting. Mr. Fowler will circulate it among the Executive Committee members beforehand for comments.

Motion to Adjourn:

Ms. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. Ms. Balan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: The next Executive Committee Meeting is Monday, October 29, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol L. Weiss