

Minutes from Executive Committee Meeting
Democratic Club of Sunnyvale
13 July 2009

Attending: Nancy Smith, Margaret Okuzumi, Vimala Balan, Kathryn Grosz, Rich Wingerter

Quorum met.

Consent Calendar:

Moved and seconded to adopt the minutes from the last executive committee meeting. Passed by voice vote.

Moved and seconded that Rich stand in as acting secretary for taking minutes. Passed by voice vote.

Melodi and Brandon have now officially resigned from the board.

Report on volunteers by Kathryn. Several people are interested in VP. Margaret notes that we probably want that person to attend the central committee meetings. Nancy will contact those interested in running and we will set up an election for the general meeting (GM) on Saturday. Nancy will provide to Vimala a checklist of eligible voters based on the criteria in the bylaws, and Vimala will check those voters off as they vote at the meeting. Nancy will calculate the quorum from the list and the bylaws before the meeting. One of the volunteers, Sarah Gitter, agreed to be a "mixer person" to encourage interactions between attendees at the GM.

Nancy reported that she plans to have us on the August county meeting agenda to be chartered. We have 25 charter members signed up, more than the 20-member requirement. She also reported that the all-club picnic is this Saturday, the same day as the GM. She is still pursuing obtaining money from the old club and will put priority on this going forward.

Vimala gave the finance report. She has a system for getting the checks from the post office and depositing them. We have payments from 18 members. We have about \$800 on hand. We have about \$390 in outstanding debt, and the sense of the board was that we should pay outstanding bills (if cash is available) even if we don't meet our reserve goal this month. Those expenses known to be outstanding are post card printing \$300, Full Calendar advertising \$20, meeting space rent \$50 for two months, and food \$20.

It was suggested that we make sure to survey all the ways people find out about the club at the GM so that we know if paying for items like Full Calendar are worthwhile.

Margaret says that she is checking into using a non-profit status to reduce the cost of meeting at Sunnyvale city facilities, but this is a long-term project that could require months to get proper IRS certification.

Someone named Kelly is up for election as membership coordinator at this week's GM. Since it's not clear who will be membership coordinator, Margaret agreed to ask people to become members at this month's GM. The consensus was that we would ask for the full \$65 amount as representing what it costs to run the club and not suggest any lower amount (which is on the forms, in any case).

Vimala noted that the Toyota dealership on Old San Francisco Road (near Fair Oaks) has meeting space and it may be possible to hold the GM there. Other places were mentioned, including a clubhouse at one of the mobile parks.

The question of who the meeting coordinator should report to was brought up, but there was no decision made on this.

Margaret noted that people should be careful where they park at her complex. However, there's no clear way to communicate this, and the consensus was to let those coming use existing signage as their guide.

Margaret gave the PR report. She thinks that precinct walking seems to be the best method of publicizing the group. There were fewer cards given out this month (perhaps because of the holidays). We discussed whether to have precinct walking every month or save it for a once-a-year membership drive. No decision was made. We discussed other ideas for publicity. Some of those were:

- Contact Comcast for a spot on their community access TV show.
- Look into paying to put literature out in kiosks at the CalTrain station.
- Show up and announce the group at the Sunnyvale city council meetings.
- Place a printed advertisement at the Bean Scene.
- Write a Daily Kos diary about the general meeting.

Rich reported on new media. Nancy said that she has posted announcements on Facebook. Rich said that he would use the existing information to post announcements about the August meeting on Facebook and LinkedIn. There was a question whether we need both a Facebook and a LinkedIn group, but no resolution. Margaret asked if it was necessary to pay for Meetup, since other, free services might be available. Rich agreed to check with Alex, who is setting up the Google Apps, to see if we can do all the same things on Google. However, Meetup does get people joining on their own every so often, so it does more than just provide a calendar. Rich has updated the Sunnyvaledems website and Meetup with the meeting notices.

Alex Eagle is working on setting up Google Apps. We have some coordination on this, and Rich will try to finish this off so that everyone can have accounts. This will give people access to the same docs on the server. Margaret said that we are still pursuing a membership database. The one we have in mind would have proper security. This would follow getting Google Apps set up, because that will at least allow us to clean up the data.

Nancy agreed to send out an updated plan (and agenda) for the GM sometime this week.

The question was raised whether the club should buy its own sound equipment. Margaret says that for now we can use the system that Margaret and Bruce have.

Someone objected to our leaving cards about the meetings, but the consensus was that this does not require action. Those who are getting the cards are registered Democrats. There is no indication that delivering the cards causes any material damage. However, we want to record who doesn't want them so that we can avoid returning there. For this, we want to have the information recorded in the database, when it's available. [Also, we need to set up procedures with those walking precincts so that they know to immediately leave if someone complains and to let us know, so that we can record this.]

The suggestion was made to have a candidate forum in September. Also, there is some activity around setting up task forces, which may be added to that agenda. Nancy and Margaret will work out some procedure for the candidate forum. We will feature only Democratic candidates, but will have some plan worked out in case any non-Democratic candidates show up and want to speak.

Sally Lieber is looking for someone to coordinate with us on initiatives. Rich has an interest in the initiative process and volunteered to be coordinator. Herb Engstrom is setting up some kind of leadership group that is likely to come up in late August or early September.

Nancy has prepared a yearly plan for the meetings, and passed out draft copies.

Submitted 13 July 2009 by Rich Wingerter (acting Secretary).

Rich Wingerter