

SVDC Executive Board Meeting Minutes

August 29th, 2019

Headen-Inman House

Attendance

Club Officers:

President: Art Cohen (*Absent*)

Vice-President: Jennie Hutchinson

Treasurer: William Barrett

Recording Secretary: Vinod Menon

Corresponding Secretary: Linda Sell

Members-At-Large: Ed Cobb, Michele Dauber, Adia Hoag, Jeff Levin, LezLi Logan, Fred Rehhauser, Kristin Rivers, Belinda Stow, Catherine Williams

Absent: Kristen Lyn, Shalom Marquardt, Jeff Orloff

Guest Attendees: "Suds" Jain, Jean Gallegos, Joseph Gallegos

Itemized Agenda topics:

2. **Motion to accept the revised July '19 Meeting Minutes, submitted by Vinod Menon, was proposed by Jennie, seconded by LezLi, and approved by all E-Board members in attendance**
3. Environmental Committee Report: (Suds Jain)
 1. Suds described the rationale underlying "Santa Clara County Declaring a Climate Emergency", and California Environmental Quality Act "CEQA". In particular, there is more flexibility under the umbrella of an "Emergency Declaration"
 2. The intent behind a Climate Emergency declaration is to enable the Santa Clara Count to make funds and staff available to seriously tackle the Climate Crisis
 3. Comparison were drawn with San Mateo County, that has 40 people in its Office of Sustainability despite being a much smaller county, whereas Santa Clara County has only a mere handful of staff
 4. Supervisor Ellenberg's suggestion regarding facilitating County employee public transportation from San Jose Diridon Station to County Building was mentioned
 5. **Motion to send SVDC E-Board's Climate Emergency Letter to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors was proposed by Michele, seconded by Vinod, and approved unanimously by all E-Board members in attendance**

<AI_Linda> As Correspondence Secretary of SVDC, Linda to mail SVDC's E-Board "Climate Emergency" letter to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors; the letter is to be signed by the SVDC President Art Cohen,

and if he is unable to do so, SVDC Vice-President Jennie Hutchinson would need to sign the letter

4. Voting Procedures & August General Meeting Voting Results: (Linda Sell)
 1. Fred recommends having an Election Committee
 2. **Motion to establish an Election Committee (to handle ballots, voting, etc) proposed by Michele, seconded by Jeff Levin, unanimously approved, 0 abstained, 0 opposed**
 3. **Motion to have Jennie appoint Kristin Rivers as Chair of the newly formed Election Committee proposed by Jeff Levin, seconded by Michele, unanimously approved, 0 abstained, 0 opposed**
 4. **<AI_Linda>** Assist Kristin Election Committee, to share knowledge and process
5. SB276 Endorsement Follow-up: (Linda Sell)
 1. **General meeting voted 29-2 in favor of SVDC endorsement of SB276**
 2. Letter of SVDC's "overwhelming" endorsement
 3. **<AI_Linda>** Determine who to send letter to; Correspondence Secretary sends the Letter on behalf of SVDC
6. Picnic Event Wrap-up (Jeff Orloff, written report, in lieu of being present in person)
 1. Incredible Time pressure to schedule the event and work with Ro Khanna's change of availability
 2. Michele: "compliment the commitment, appreciate the work, disappointed with the low turnout"; BBQ tickets too pricey at \$50, should consider less than \$25 BBQ ticket, and instead consider hot dogs and burgers, grilled by volunteers;
 3. Jeff L: "too much food, lot of it was taken home"
 4. Vinod et al: "Kudos to Linda for rousting Club members and seeking creative suggestions to boost picnic attendance, in the final week"
 5. Bill Barrett's suggestion: reduced price for members, check with Fire Department for lower-cost alternative BBQ truck
 6. Kristin: "moving meeting to PRIDE event day resulted in scheduling conflict and contributed to poor attendance"
 7. However, SVDC E-Board and picnic organizers had no choice but to go with Sunday August 25th, since the event was promoted heavily with Ro Khanna being the headliner, and the only date that Ro was available in the month unfortunately conflicted with the PRIDE event
 8. Kristin: "scheduling conflict with PRIDE event, contributes to an inadvertent message of SVDC being not inclusive"
 9. Suggestion was made for SVDC to consider having a booth at next year's PRIDE event
 10. See "SVDC 2019 Event Management- Notes & Reflections" submitted by LezLi, for additional observations and key takeaways from the SVDC picnic
7. Hospitality Meeting Committee Update: (Belinda, Catherine)

1. Next General Meeting, and following meeting is at Roosevelt Room in the Campbell Heritage Center complex
2. Bathroom is outside the Roosevelt room
3. Signage will be provided
4. Can serve alcohol, provided it is given free, and not sold for money
5. SVDC will serve Wine & Beer ONLY, no hard drinks
6. Michele is donating \$200 towards the September General Meeting Event Food and Drinks budget
7. Volunteers needed: Kristin has offered to serve, Jeff O (please confirm whether you can arrange the drinks)
8. Wine & Beer will be served to only age 21 and above
9. OCI serves wine & beer every week
- 10. Motion: LezLi moved that wine/beer be served at SVDC General Meeting; seconded by Jeff Levin, passed unanimously by attendees, 0 abstentions**
11. Adia will be running the projector, since Belinda is unavailable

8. Agenda Item “Open for Adjustments”: Membership Chair

1. SVDC Officers have responsibility to E-Board
2. Policy Article VI, Section 1, President
- 3. Motion: proposed by Michele, that “SVDC E-Board adopt a policy, that E-Board may vote on appointments, and if the E-Board by majority vote makes an appointment, the President of SVDC is bound by the E-Board vote. The President must follow the direction of the E-Board, as indicated in Article VI, Section 1, Items D and E. “ Motion passed unanimously, with 0 abstentions**
9. Committee Chair Appointments & Board Confirmation: (Jennie)
 - 1. Motion: Belinda moved to approve that Jennie appoint LezLi, as Membership Committee Chair”, seconded by Michele, unanimously approved, 0 abstentions**
 2. Fred expressed strong concern regarding LezLi having sufficient time to devote to Membership Chair tasks
 3. LezLi countered by stating that Kristin on the Membership Committee will work on Outreach
 4. **<AI_Jeff L>** Ask Committee Chairs to describe their respective Committee’s functions, and then publish the Committee descriptions in the SVDC Monthly Newsletter
10. Communications Team Update: (LezLi Logan/Jeff Levin)
 1. “Facebook Ads did well on clicks” – Jeff L
 2. “Record number of people liking SVDC Facebook page” – Jeff L
 - i. Shows interest, desire, commitment
 3. For next month’s General Meeting, emphasize join SVDC and vote that day; encourage candidate supporters to join SVDC.

4. <AI_Jeff L> send the SVDC Gen Meeting Link to Candidates' Campaign Managers
5. **Motion to authorize up to \$75, spend initially only \$50 towards Facebook Ads for the next SVDC General Meeting; motion made by Michele, seconded by Adia, approved unanimously, 0 abstentions**

11. Nomination & Vote to fill E-Board vacancy: (Jennie)

1. **Frank Ponciano – E-Board candidate**
 - i. "Renowned for activism, organizing, "most impactful, where change could have happened" SVDC bring about change, young Latino people from East Side San Jose" – Jeff L
 - ii. "Incredibly professional, championing housing issues, immigration, human rights, connections to actively engaged people, oratory skills, speeches for Don Rocha, leadership potential" – Jennie
2. **Motion proposed by Jennie to have Frank Ponciano to fill the vacant seat on SVDC E-Board, seconded by Jeff Levin, unanimously approved, 0 abstentions**
3. **Wishing you a hearty Welcome to the SVDC E-Board, Frank!**

12. Voter's Choice- SVDC sponsored Event & Promotion at Meeting

1. All registered voters can vote by mail
2. Outreach – no assigned polling station
3. SVDC banner to be used at Booth, is on its way

13. Programming Committee Update: (Jennie)

1. No updates
2. <AI_Fred> Forward Endorsement-seeking Candidate list for upcoming SVDC General Meetings, to Endorsement Committee members (Fred, Michele, ..)

14. Holiday Party Plan & Options: (Catherine)

1. Mariani's Restaurant Santa Clara is not closing for renovation, until January 2020
2. Considering December 21st as holiday party date
3. **However, general consensus of E-Board is that in lieu of a party, recommend that we "do something positive for the community"**
4. Jeff L talked of Green Party's Nick Cortez's event to send toys and gifts of cheer for refugee children held at the US Southern Border Detention Centers
5. Vinod proposed that SVDC members volunteer on a particular day, helping bag canned food and groceries at the Second Harvest Food Bank
6. <AI_Fred> Communicate with Events Committee (Jeff O and Jenny Higgins Bradanini)
7. <AI_Catherine, Frank> Look into options for Volunteer / philanthropic group effort(s), and work with Frank to see if there are any organizations that Franks works with that might be a good fit. The goal is to be ready to announce the event, by the next General Meeting on September 16th

15. Treasurer's Report – List of questions for Kristen & William Barrett's last E-Board term (William Barrett)
1. **Bill Barrett resigned from his SVDC Treasurer role; however, he has decided to continue to stay on as an E-Board member**
 2. **Motion: LezLi proposed motion to thank Bill Barrett, who deserves kudos for his stellar contributions as SVDC Treasurer, including performing the arduous tasks of programming spreadsheets and databases to maintain SVDC financial records, and the intelligence and integrity he has exhibited in his Treasurer role all these years. Seconded, and unanimously approved.**
 3. **Motion: Jeff L proposed motion that Jennie appoint Kristen Lyn as Treasurer, seconded by Michele, and unanimously approved with not abstentions**
 4. Federal account has to be reported in detail to the FEC, by way of a rather confusing interface. State account has to be reported to the CA Secretary of State through a separate, also confusing, interface. We can keep one, closing the other one, keep them both, or close both of them. **The Federal and State accounts cannot be "merged".** Club might consider dropping both accounts, but must then find a way to support its role as a fund-raiser for political candidates and causes. One donation from our club requires that we report it through one of these confusing interfaces.
 5. **Interim Decision:** Table checking account mergers until Kristen Lyn takes over as SVDC Treasurer, and has an opportunity to study the pros and cons (if any) of Bill's proposal
16. Legislative Liaison Committee proposal: (Shalom)
1. **TABLED, since Shalom was absent**
17. Legislative & DNC issues for Consideration: (Shalom)
1. **TABLED, since Shalom was absent**
18. Charter School Bills and Schools & Communities First Initiative: (Adia)
1. Local Accountability in Public Education
 2. **AB 1505, would give districts where a charter school would be located the sole authority for approval or denial**
 3. **AB 1507, would rescind an infrequently used exemption that allowed a charter school that couldn't find a facility in the district that approved it to locate in a building in another district in the same county.**
 4. AB 1505 and AB 1507: Adia shared the backdrop of both bills, 2-year moratorium on non-classroom-based charter schools, while provisions of the law are being fixed
 5. Adia is not anti-Chartered school
 6. "Non-classroom-based chartered schools, are filled with confusing loopholes"
 7. "California Schools are moving towards Maryland standards"

8. "Some Chartered Schools collected daily per diem, and engaged non-credentialed teachers. There was also an instance of a Chartered School Teacher's Aide who was not finger-printed who purportedly molested a student."
9. Senate Appropriations Committee is voting for it
- 10. Motion: Kristin proposed that SVDC E-Board endorse AB 1505 and AB 1507, seconded by Michele, passed unanimously, with no abstentions**
19. Pre-endorsement Convention Delegates and Tickets: (Michele)
 1. **Discussion surrounding SVDC President Art Cohen's list of names that he selected and submitted to the Regional Directors and Central Committee**
 2. Vinod stated that this topic is best discussed in Art's presence, in order to understand his rationale and stance on the matter; Michele countered that Art has chosen to not be present at this SVDC E-Board meeting, for his own personal reasons
 3. Michele stated that there appeared to be several SVDC By-law violation problems associated SVDC President Art Cohen's handling of this matter:
 - i. "Procedural: The SVDC By-laws require that VP to assist President in every duty. Jennie had called Art regarding sharing the list with her, but Art declined to share its contents prior to the list being submitted to the Regional Directors and Central Committee
 - ii. The List of submitted names was not shared with the E-Board, prior to their submission and until August 29th
 - iii. Democratic Party's commitment to adhering to Diversity: there was not equitable gender balance on the list of submitted names, E-Board members were not given first priority, instead they were relegated to being alternate, categories such as race were not considered in ensuring adequate representation"
 4. **Motion: Michele proposed that the E-Board adopt a policy that clarifies and defines the procedure for Party Pre-endorsement delegates based upon the By-laws: The President shall develop the list of party pre-endorsement delegates in collaboration with the Vice-President, as indicated in Article VI, Section 2, Item A, and that the list of names should be circulated for discussion, 30 days prior to the submission deadline and that 70% vote is required for approval of the List"; Fred seconded, and approved unanimously by E-Board attendees, with 0 abstentions**
 5. Michele stated that by reiterating that her emails to Art, regarding the fairness of the list of names and the lack of transparency, she was not expressing her "individual concern"
 - 6. Motion made by Michele, and seconded by Jeff L, to censure the SVDC President, and move to add the no-confidence and/or censure to the agenda of the next E-Board meeting on September 25th; passed unanimously, with 0 abstentions**

7. A majority of E-Board members voiced significant issues with Art's action and behavior, characterizing his style as being "autocratic". Couple of specific issues were brought up:
- i. handling of the appointment of SVDC Membership Chair,
 - ii. continued use of the phrase "sole authority",
 - iii. violation of the SVDC By-laws and Democratic party principles, and lack of transparency with the process of pre-endorsement delegate selections
 - iv. Attempt to pre-empt and undermine the Nomination Committee in lobby certain E-Board members to be part of the election slate.

20. Endorsement Committee Update: (Fred)

1. No update; Central committee met; Fred attended. Next meeting Nov 6th

21. Membership update: (LezLi)

1. <AI_LezLi> will discuss by email
2. LezLi handed out hardcopy SVDC Membership summary as of August 29, 2019

22. Click My Cause App: (Belinda)

1. Costs \$25 / month; \$150 set-up fee
2. <AI_Belinda> Arrange Demonstration and discuss value proposition of this App at the next E-Board meeting

23. Open Forum: (Jennie)

24. Adjourn to next meeting: September 25, 2019
