

**Democrats of Napa Valley
Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes, Month Date Year
6:05 p.m. – 8:05 p.m.
Southside Cafe, Napa, CA**

Committee Members Present

X Terry Beck
X Chris Benz
X Richard Bruns *Secretary/Recorder*
X Buck Donnelly
X Kelly Hurst *Treasurer*
X Conchita Marusich
X Karen McNair *Vice President*
X Johanna O'Kelley *President*

AGENDA / MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

6: 05 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion to adopt the Agenda by Chris Benz
Motion seconded by Buck Henry
Agenda approved by unanimous vote

III. Update from the Living with Fire Event on July 26 - Richard

Richard: The event was full of vital information not usually covered by wildfire experts. Dr. Hanson presented the ideas that have made him a controversial figure in wildfire information sessions. Bruns mentioned that the items discussed by Hanson were often the direct opposite of Forest Service policies. For example, forests burned in wildfires often have their burned trees harvested by lumber companies, amounting to clear-cutting whole ranges and forever damaging the ecology of the area. Many types of forest trees depend on fires for rejuvenating their own species. And many species depended on the aftermath of wildfires to keep the species going. The black backed woodpecker, for example completely depends on the regular burning of certain trees for their survival. The black back woodpecker is featured in a film clip from the film, *Searching for Gold Spot*, created by the poet/biologist, Maya Khosla, Wildlife Biologist, writer and filmmaker. Khosla also read a powerful poem from her book of poetry, *All the Fires of Wind and Light*.

Hanson also pointed out that much research and analysis of fire burns have revealed that a firebreak has protection of a maximum of 65 feet from a structure. Making it 100 feet, or more, does not affect the outcome of the structure's future. A grass fire can be normally stopped by a good firebreak around a house ... but forest fires can easily jump such a break, especially important in restraining grassy wildfires if the wind is strong, and the air conditions particular dry.

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Chris Benz noted that post wildfire forests have been marked for "thinning" but instead of "thinning" the area, huge ranges are being completely gutted by lumber companies. There appears to be no serious oversight.

For a home to have a protective shield around it, especially those with a close neighbor, can reduce fire-catching house needs for addition reasons. have a protection plan in place, like making sure the walls be made of fire-proof materials, and roof also of fireproof materials.

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Karen McNair added that "chipping" of downed trees, and compost, offer little to no protection, as the chips can catch fire and smolder underneath, until bursting into a full blown fire.

Also, raking the leaves [Not the forest!] around the house is a necessary protection and should be done as early as possible. This includes keeping space clear around oak trees. These magnificent and giant trees want to have a bed of their own leaves for the best growth of these magnificent trees.

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He had a tremendous amount of information that was difficult to discuss without providing all the links of information relevant to a specific topic, which in isolation, was not necessarily enough information to manifest a whole confirmation around.

However, he did offer a Q&A period of time, and answered a lot of questions from the audience with surprising amounts of clarity and detail necessary to answer specific prevention techniques and characteristics.

IV. Climate Change: Action Overview, Budget, Volunteers, Funding, to date

General discussion on mechanism of recycling ocean plastics and aluminum led by President Johanna O'Kelley as applied to Climate Change Symposium agenda.

Mary Jane Bowker believes Congressman Thompson may be able to attend; not confirmed as of this date.

The Western Bonaventure Hotel in L.A. has program mitigating impact on operations over decades, something local hotels have not seriously investigated. Johanna is on the board of Green Fields, a certification organization that certifies hotels, Fortune 500 products, etc., with some 30 L.A. hotels certified. Bonaventure saves 7 million gallons of water a year, and one million dollars a year. They've cut water usage by 30%; their waste by 25%; and their energy usage by about 30% as well.

They are a big hotel, and if they can achieve such success [by green practices] then anybody should be able to do likewise. As Napa County water resources are so precious [not only for normal residential and business use, but because of wine industrial agricultural dependency], if hotels can do similar, a real boon for everyone.

We are still trying to nail down transportation issues. Kate Miller and traffic.

Chris Benz notes that one major goal is to get people out of their cars for public access transportation. Not enough is known right now about California transportation plan under development to include in Symposium Agenda ... each section is limited to 45 minutes.

Chris Benz discussed development of Smart Train ... in connection with redevelopment of Hwy 37 corridor. There are existing and operating tracks from Suisun to Sears Point that utilizes an existing lift style drawbridge.

Johanna has left messages for Susan Handy, Professor for Environmental Policy and director of the National Center for Sustainable Transportation. She talks about overcoming obstacles for bicycle transportation, active walking ... anything that will get one out of their vehicle.

Terry (Beck) is working on setting up a testing venue for electric bikes, through Napa Valley Bike Tours. Ford is getting involved in bikes, doing things like bike sharing; they've been seen right next to Lyft bicycles.

Johanna cited "walking bicycles"; can be used as home exercise and training device as well as practical transportation device. Richard looked up sample price(s) on the Internet: \$999 with home stand included.

Richard inquired as status of \$4,000 rental fee for the Performing Arts Building mentioned at previous meeting. Johanna negated that amount, citing \$550 which includes rental and custodial services and AV services.

Chris Benz noted that, like at the Living With Fire Program, an insurance rider is required. Johanna confirmed that this will be provided through the Democrats Club/Central Committee.

Review of Climate Symposium logo designs. Bios and information about the speakers and the Symposium will soon be posted and linked to the Dem Website.

Johanna talked with Anna who helped develop Rock the Congress, with tickets at \$65. She said that projected \$45 for the Climate Conference, considering the agenda and schedule, was a terrific price.

So projected EARLY BIRD PRICES: \$45 regular adults; \$35 for Seniors [what age bracket?]; and \$25 for students. Students can't be lower because "breakfast", lunch and snacks are included and is the bulk of cost.

At the Door Prices: \$60, \$50 & \$40.

It was suggested that a "supporter" category be added which would allow sponsorship of someone else's attendance.

Scholarships for students unable to make the ticket price would also be available.

Kaiser as co-sponsor is out because they require no political partisanship, which is not practical for a Democratic Club program. Plus, Kaiser is anticipating a workers' strike vote over the next month, which would be problematic for their participation. The strike, if it happened, would commence October 1, two weeks before the symposium. If still on strike, no one would want to cross the picket line.

Also, could draw attention to the controversial Queen of the Valley/St. Helena Hospital proposal, which has been garnering local headlines.

Buck suggested locking Domain Names for .Net and .Org, which he believes are available, for the website posting. Johanna noted she is working on that with GoDaddy but will check on the others as well.

Buck believes all three are available.

The Performing Arts Theater hold 485 people. Ticket sales need to be 500. Food cost estimation is at \$25/person. Contact SMOKE catering comping for estimate. Karen McNair will check on caterers and prices.

Johanna suggests asking all presidential (Democratic) candidates if they would be interested in coming, Inslee in particular, even if they have not made the September Debate participation criteria ... which Inslee will probably be unable to do.

Johanna proposed \$5,000 to backup guarantee to put against Symposium expenses.

Kelly Hurst: As of June we have \$13,837;

Chris Benz Moved to allow \$5,000 backup guarantee to cover Symposium expenses, if needed.

Karen McNair seconded the motion

Carried by unanimous vote

Discussion of prices vs costs, donations and patrons; Chris may talk with Napa Vintners' Rex Stults about participation.

Staglin Family Winery does charitable work, primarily in the mental health fields.

Chris: There is a group called Growers and Vintners for responsible agriculture ... that were co-advocates for Yes on C ... She will ask if they are interested. Conchita notes that Climate Change will be huge for the future of Wine Industry and they all should be interested.

Johanna noted that Lisa Seran of Indivisible Napa recommended Paradigm.

Johanna noted that surveys indicated Democrats interest and concern about Climate change in the last ten years has increased from 70% to 80% while Republicans have increased from 24% to 27%. They [Republicans] just think it's another progressive left conspiracy.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED INCLUDE:

Napa County Bike Coalition

Tabling

Volunteer management

etc.

Kelly put in an ad/call in Marketplace

August 19 — Is Next General Meeting, 5:30 at Women's Club

September is Debate Watch party; no official meeting.

October 12 is Climate Symposium

October 21 is October General Meeting

Endorsements for March primary could be October or November

Million voter contact goal must be launched.

Census 2020 is about to launch; reminder it costs Napa County \$20,000 per resident if they do not get counted in the census, over ten year span.

Recruit volunteers for future events on Aug. 19 meeting.

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V. August 19 DONV Mtg.

VI. September 12 Debate watch Party and Potluck

VII. A look ahead...

Map of Senate Seats up for grab

Map of House Seats we won and are up again

In January Devin Nunes launched lawsuits against persons and entities that criticized him during the election and afterwards.

Terry Beck spoke to her addition to the agenda: Update on fair. Need volunteers to work the booth, this year, outside on the Fair Mall Way.

The boot will include a Straw Poll for Democratic candidates; tattoos for kids; buttons and flyers available.

Conchita Strategic Plan/Central Committee members need people to brain storm ideas, and a poster board writer

Richard suggested High School Climate group as volunteers (Bailey & Jennifer).

Concern expressed about merger of Queen (Catholic) and St. Helena (Seventh Day Adventists) regarding health treatment for women and LGBTQ.