



El Cerrito Democratic Club

Newsletter – April 2020

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Meeting Location: Telephone:

Online @ Zoom:

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ECDC

P.O. Box 192

El Cerrito, CA 94530

1. Message from the Board

The Board hopes everyone is doing well during this shelter in place. We were very distracted by everyday life during the month of March. We met in early April and look forward to the challenges that lay ahead in the Presidential Election year. First and foremost, we need to increase our membership by June 1. We hope you will ask a friend to join the club before that date. We will be resuming meetings – virtually. The April 28 meeting will be conducted on phone and computer using Zoom. Password information will be sent out before the meeting. The census is very important to make sure Democrats, especially underrepresented minorities are fairly represented. We look forward to hearing from you and possibly seeing you on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Please stay safe.

2. Meeting Agenda April 28, 2020 @ 6:30PM.

6:30 Call to Order for Club Business

- 6:31 Approve February Meeting Minutes
- 6:35 Treasurer's Report
- 6:38 Membership's Report
- 6:42 Other Officer Reports
- 6:46 Report from Club Representative to Central Committee
- 6:55 Upcoming ECDC Meetings and Events: General Meeting May 26, 2020

7:00 Program

- 7:00 2020 Census – Darlene Rios Drapkin
Presentation, Questions, Discussion and Consideration of Action or Direction to the Board
- 7:25 Point Molate – Norman La Force
Presentation, Questions, Discussion and Consideration of Action or Direction to the Board
- 7:45 Announcements and Good of the Order

8:00 Adjourn

3. April Program Overview

Darlene Rios Drapkin is an economic development consultant specializing in neighborhood commercial district revitalization. She's managed her own consulting firm, Urban Transformation, for the last two decades providing services to neighborhoods around the country. Darlene has an MBA from the American Graduate School of International Management. She is a native Spanish speaker and has conducted business in French and Portuguese. The last three years Darlene drove a community-driven comprehensive initiative in her hometown of Richmond, a largely Latino undeserved 23rd Street commercial corridor. She also worked as an adviser for small businesses with the SBDC. She is a Richmond Rotarian and was recognized as 2017 Richmond Chamber of Commerce Ambassador.

Darlene joined the US Census as a Partnership Specialist this past May pooling her years of community building experience to ensure each and every US resident is counted once, only once, and in the right place, in the 2020 Census. Being counted helps with Federal and State funding formulas – be sure to get counted!

4. Point Molate – Norman La Force

Point Molate is an open space treasure. It is under threat with a massive housing project that is not urban infill, will cost the City Millions of dollars to pay for that the city does not have, is the wrong site for housing since it is not near any transit hub or Priority Development Area, and will have many significant environmental impacts. Sierra Club, Citizens for East Shore Parks, SPRAWLDEF, and the Point Molate Alliance oppose this project, support a project, called the Community Plan, that provides for a hotel and commercial complex at the historic Winehaven areas, with the vast majority of the site as a regional park operated by the east Bay Regional Park District. In the Draft SEIR the Community Plan was found to be the "Environmentally Superior" plan. It also will provide the city with net income as determined by Hatch economist while the City's proposal with SunCal will cause the city to be in the red for millions of dollars. ECDC should support the Community Plan

Also, in this time of the pandemic with limited public participation government, the city should declare a moratorium on the processing of this project until the pandemic allows for public participation

Moreover, the community groups have put together an initiative that would allow the voters to vote on making the community plan the plan for the site. The pandemic stopped that initiative in its tracks. Therefore, the Richmond city council should place the initiative on the ballot itself so that the voters can vote on it

5. Membership Renewal

ECDC membership runs from January 1st to December 31st of each calendar year. 2019 members can renew any time before June 1st, and must be renewed to participate in any club votes – like endorsement of ballot measures candidates. After June 1st, members from 2019 are treated like new members, and must wait the minimum waiting time to participate in Club endorsement votes. New members who join after September 1st, 2020 are members for the balance of 2020 and all of 2021 before they need to renew in January 2022. Membership is \$20 for one person at an address, \$30 for two at the same address, and \$5 for students. If you do not remember if you have renewed for 2020, please mail membership.ecdc@gmail.com. Renew 1) online at www.ecdclub.org, or 2) mailing a check (made out to El Cerrito Democratic Club) to ECDC, P.O. Box 192, El Cerrito, CA 94530. If you mail in your dues payment, please provide us with your name(s), address and, especially email addresses for every member!

6. February 25, 2020 General Membership Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Vice President Membership Greg Lyman began the meeting at 6.30pm.

2. Minutes

A motion to approve minutes of the January 28, 2019 meeting was seconded, and unanimously approved.

3. Election of Executive Board Officers

The Club voted on candidates to fill two vacancies on the E-Board:

- Vice President Media (Website): Madeline Kronenberg was nominated; nominations were closed, and the nomination was approved unanimously.
- Vice President Publications (Newsletters): Carolyn Wysinger was nominated; nominations were closed, and the nomination was approved unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

Kathy Fleming reported a current balance of \$11,056.51.

5. Membership

Greg reported over 100 paid memberships.

6. Report from Club Representative to the DPCCC

Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) Club Representative Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto reviewed items considered at the February 20, 2020 meeting:

- Detailed review and discussion of Bylaws. Per California Democratic Party (CDP) guidance, the DPCCC considered adoption of a new section on "fundamental rules of fairness", relating to Complaints, Due Process, and Procedure.
- Contra Cost County Measures J and R were endorsed.
- The Kensington Democratic Club proposed their club be chartered with the DPCCC even though the city is part of Alameda County. Membership approved the chartering unanimously.
- Volunteers are needed at the new Democratic Club office in Walnut Creek.

7. Announcements

- Bob MacDonald distributed a handout of recently published information on climate change.
- Norman La Force asked the Club to consider at the March meeting support for a voter initiative proposed by various groups seeking to establish Pt. Molate as a regional park and opposing the development of housing in the area.
- Y'Anad Burrell proposed the Club create a Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Greg asked she provide recommendations to the E-Board on the scope of her recommendation.
- Paul Fadelli said he visited Club President Janet Abelson, who is recovering from her illness.
- Al Miller emphasized that "everything is on the table" as the City of El Cerrito considers ways to address budget shortfalls, and encouraged people to get involved in the process.
- Linda Gustafson asked if there has been outreach to non-residents concerning El Cerrito's budget and services. Greg suggested she email him regarding this.
- Betty Brown noted some upcoming events with sister organizations.
- Candidates for the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) District 1 present at the meeting introduced themselves: Y'Anad Burrell, Champagne Brown, Michael Nye and Gabriel Quinto.

8. Program – endorsements for March 3 primary

Contra Costa County Measure R would issue \$575 million of bonds, averaging \$34.48 million annually for West Contra Costa County Unified School District facilities and technology. Supporters of the bond explained it was developed with community input; noted oversight by the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC), including implementation by WCCUSD of many controls previously proposed by the

CBOC; and the need to complete the rebuilding of all district schools in order to provide all students with equivalent facilities. A member expressed concern over cost overruns by the District with previous bond-funded projects, and said the District's current \$40 million budget deficit suggested oversight remains inadequate.

A motion to endorse Measure R was seconded, and approved with 20 votes in favor, 1 against, and 2 abstentions.

California Proposition 13 would authorize the sale of \$15 billion in general obligation bonds to fund school, community college, and university facility projects. In addition, school districts and community college districts would be authorized to issue more local bonds, and school districts would have new limits on their ability to levy developer fees. Economically disadvantaged schools would receive priority in the allotment of these bond funds, Al Miller said. Proposition 13 would also provide matching funds to school districts to build or upgrade school buildings, he added.

Endorsement of Proposition 13 was not on the agenda. A motion to waive the Club's notification rule for this endorsement was made, and seconded.

A motion to endorse Proposition 13 was seconded, and approved unanimously.

Noting the diversity of support for the numerous **Democratic Presidential candidates**, a motion of no endorsement for any candidates in the March 3 California primary was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

9. Proposed programs for 2020

(see next page)

10. Adjourn

The Club adjourned at 8.00pm.

7. 2020 Officers

- President: Janet Abelson
- Executive Vice President: Champagne Brown
- Immediate Past President: Peter Chow
- Vice President Membership: Greg Lyman
- Vice President Treasurer: Kathy Fleming
- Vice President Communications (Newsletters): Carolyn Wysinger
- Vice President Records (Secretary): Glen Nethercut
- Vice President Programs: Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch
- Vice President Social Media (Website): Madeline Kronenberg

8. 2020 Programs

The Club discussed several topics and ways to get input on their importance. In light of COVID 19, these topics may need to be revisited, virtually.

ECDC discussion of program topics for 2020

- To be distributed via:
 - Esurvey (SurveyMonkey, Google Forms) of membership
 - Mail to those on newsletter mailing list
- **Upcoming meetings:**
 - **Mar:** Get-out-the-vote:
 - **Apr:** Census?
 - **May:**
 - **Jun:**
 - **Jul:** Endorsements
 - **Aug:** Endorsements
 - **Sep:**
 - **Oct:** Dinner
 - **Nov:** Recap
 - **Dec:** Party
- 1. Get-out-the-vote (GOV):
 - Education possibilities
 - Learn about, volunteer with, support:
 - Sister Districts
 - Red to Blue
 - Together We will
 - Albany Democratic Club featured a recent speaker
 - Indivisible
- 2. Census
- 3. Phone banks
 - Real estate office an ideal space
- 4. Activate & educate Club and non-club members
 - Outreach to high school students (future voters)
- 5. Climate change
- 6. Young Democrats presentation
 - Generational challenges/ideals
 - Campaign experiences
- 7. Uniting blue voters – overcoming differences that divide & defeat Democrats
- 8. Proposition 13 reform presentation
 - Evolve has a speaker (Gabe said)
- 9. Healthcare
 - Save Alta Bates Hospital
 - Healthcare for all
- 10. Misc. presentations:
 - Transit issues
 - El Cerrito Life Long Learning locations
 - Housing & RHNA & homelessness
- 11. Forums to attract public:
 - Elected officials
 - Progressive issues
 - Local issues