



El Cerrito Democratic Club

Newsletter – June 2021

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ECDC
PO Box 192
El Cerrito CA 94530

Newsletter Editor: William Ktsanes

1. Agenda for the Tuesday, June 22nd Meeting

Link to Join the ECDC Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84303785299?pwd=bUFyY3VHVXFYTEZaR3YvSIN4dUpQQT09>

ZOOM Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Passcode: 111652

One tap mobile:

+16699006833,,84303785299# US (San Jose)

+14086380968,,84303785299# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose);

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbSLJabiii>

Agenda

6:20	Assemble and Mingle
6:30	Call to Order
6:35	Approve Minutes from the April and May Meetings
6:40	Officer Reports – Treasurer, Membership, Events, Newsletter, Website, Secretary
6:50	DPCCC Report
7:00	Special Program – Diversity Committee Presentations
7:50	Announcements
8:00	Adjourn

2. Preview of the June 22nd Special Program

ECDC Diversity Committee Presentations

In the months to come, the El Cerrito Democratic Club Diversity Committee will provide presentations and updates on diversity, equity and inclusion issues the Committee believes are most important and timely for the education and engagement of the full Club. For the June 22nd Special Program, there will be brief but informative presentations on racial injustice issues related to redistricting, voter suppression, healthcare access and more.

The Diversity Committee will also share information about the four organizations chosen to receive an equal distribution of funds donated by the Club in honor of George Floyd.

3. Recap of the May 25, 2021 Meeting

ECDC General Meeting Notes May 25, 2021

7:15 pm – Assemble and Mingle

President Greg Lyman Called the meeting to Order at 7:31 pm.

Minutes

General Meeting minutes for April and May are forthcoming from Margaret.

May Meeting Presenter Recap

May's ECDC meeting started later and was shorter than usual as many Club members attended the City of El Cerrito's Plaza BART Development community forum that immediately preceded and overlapped a bit with our monthly meeting. Here is a link to the El Cerrito Plaza BART presentation:

https://www.bart.gov/sites/default/files/docs/Community%20Event%201_2021_0525%20FINAL%20Presentation.pdf

June General Meeting Agenda

Greg Lyman shared the following *Action Items* for the upcoming June meeting:

- a. April minutes
- b. May minutes
- c. June Presentation Preview – Diversity Committee Funding Action
(see “June presentation” below)

Newsletter Deadline – 6/12/21

Deadline may be pushed out if Y'Anad Burrell (Chair of the ECDC Diversity Committee) needs time to add updates from the June 15, 2021 sub-committee meeting.

June presentation – ECDC Diversity Sub-Committee

The next ECDC Diversity Sub-Committee meeting is Tuesday, June 15, 2021. It is our hope that a presentation from the Sub-Committee will constitute our Special Program and be a point of discussion for the June ECDC General Meeting.

July presentation

William Ktsanes suggested that the proposed El Cerrito Plaza BART development could be a topic for a future ECDC General Meeting Special Program. Carolyn Wysinger will contact the development team and explore options, one of which may be a presentation in July.

Campaign for the Club

Support for the El Cerrito Plaza BART housing project was proposed as a possible campaign for the ECDC.

- a. Margaret Kavanaugh will develop a support concept summary for the proposed El Cerrito Plaza BART project.
- b. If the Club agrees to support the project, members may be asked to speak before the El Cerrito City Council and BART Board. The Club may also choose to host a change.org petition.

October Location for the Annual Dinner and Preliminary Speaker Ideas

- a. Speaker ideas? Carolyn Wysinger and Greg Lyman will create a ranked list for consideration. Please feel free to forward suggestions to them.
- b. Support was expressed for both having the dinner at a restaurant or having it catered. Restaurant suggestions included El Mono and Los Moles, with agreement that it is important to support local El Cerrito businesses.

Membership

We are at 110 members, which may be our lowest in a while. Some members raised concerns with Greg Lyman that not all members feel the Club is not going in a direction in which everyone is comfortable, specifically in terms of group dynamics. Club members discussed this criticism and agreed that continued, robust conversation is a welcome and, in fact, very democratic means for exploring and addressing concerns.

Good of order

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

4. Recap of the April 27, 2021 Meeting

ECDC General Meeting Notes

April 27, 2021

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle

President Greg Lyman Called the meeting to Order at 6:32 pm.

Minutes

Betty Brown moved and Board member Champagne Brown seconded the approval of the March minutes with the amendment that “Betty Brown was the second on the February minutes.” Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Membership – Our membership is approximately 100 members.

Treasurer – Chair Greg Lyman noted that there is \$13,125 in the Club account.

Events – No report

Newsletter – No report

Website – The photo for the Club website was taken!

ECDC Diversity Subcommittee Report

The topic of their recent meeting was the Uncomfortable Truth. The next discussion will be on possible next steps. A May ECDC General Club meeting goal will be to identify the non-profits that will be receiving the Club donation.

Democratic Party of Contra Costa County

Board Member Champagne Brown gave an update on the last meeting of the DPCCC.

Three items were voted on and approved:

1. Support of AB 20
2. Support of AB1199
3. Resolution opposing the recall of Governor Gavin Newsom

Further, it was shared that a DPCCC member was charged with impairing the election of a fellow democrat. He was found guilty and will not be allowed to vote in meetings for a year.

Lastly, Champagne Brown reminded the membership that we are looking for and will soon be selecting an alternate to represent the Club with the DPCCC (which meets on the third Thursday of each month).

Event

Board member Carolyn Wysinger introduced the evening's speaker, Katie Ricklefs, Chair of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County. Katie presented information regarding the Stop the Recall Effort and took questions.

Summary: We need to vote no on the first item on the ballot. We need to get out the vote and then vote no on the first question. She also noted that there is a tool kit available for the Club to use and it was agreed that it should be customized for west county.

MOTION: Board members Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch and Buddy Akacic:

The El Cerrito Democratic Club supports Governor Newsom and opposes his recall. Motion passed unanimously.

Jonee Grassi requested an endorsement of AB 1400 (Kalra) - The California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act. The Club discussed the bill and its current "suspended" status before the State Assembly.

MOTION: Ed Crowely/Buddy Akacic presented a Motion to Adjourn. With 9 in favor and 9 opposed, the Motion failed.

MOTION: Vanessa Warheit and Board member Champagne Brown presented a Motion to table this item to the May meeting and work with the sponsor to reword item to include addressing health care disparities and the availability of full-service medical facilities. The Motion passed unanimously.

Good of the Order

Joey Smith noted that the East Bay MUD water supply planning survey is out in the community, with public comment due on April 29 and a hearing set for May 11, 2021. A link for more information is on the EBMUD website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm

5. June is Pride Month!

As our state starts to open up, many local Pride organizations are opting for one more year of virtual events. EC Dems Board Member and SF Pride Board President Carolyn Wysinger happily reminds us that, although there will be no traditional parade down Market Street this year, San Francisco Pride (which is celebrating its 51st anniversary!) and others hosted a number of events throughout this month.



6. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions

Please remember to renew your Club membership – and many thanks to all who have renewed already! Dues are still \$5 for students, \$20 for single members, and \$30 for two adults at same address.

You can renew online at: <https://ecdclub.org/join/> or you can mail your check to PO Box 192, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Please make checks payable to El Cerrito Democratic Club and provide an email address for all members.

Memberships follow the calendar year, so your renewal now is good through December 31, 2021. If you have questions, please email Neil Tsutsui, ECDC's VP for Membership, at: membership.ecdc@gmail.com. Thank you!

7. Link to ECDC Website and Bylaws

Periodically the Club updates our Bylaws. The bylaws were changed in October 2018 to meet DPCCC requirements; revisions were proposed and adopted during the January 2021 ECDC meeting. The ECDC Bylaws are posted on the ECDC website: <https://ecdclub.org/>