



Tuesday 7/1/08 Meeting Minutes: July 1 Meeting Proposition 13 Revisited

1. Joni Eisen called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. This month we were back in our usual room at the Neighborhood House.
2. The agenda and minutes from last month were approved.
3. **Officer Reports:**
 - **Treasurer - Joni Eisen for Barbera Schrader**

Balance currently **\$1560**

\$15 monthly deduction from checking account for Blue Utopia web server
\$0 in new memberships (no changes)

- **Political Action Committee VP - Rachel Schapira**

Last month we did voter reg at Potrero Terrace, in front of the Safeway, and at the Pride celebration. About 90% registered as Democratic, a few decline to state **THIS FRIDAY at Dolores Park** 1pm to 2pm before the SF MIME troupe performance - we need volunteers.

Joni talked about our successful Pride parade contingent for Clean Money

- **Secretary / Website - Quint King**

This meeting will be the first where the **audio and photos** from the meeting will be available the **same night as the meeting**.

PayPal for joining the Club online is now up! Try it out.

We have a new companion **NING** website for setting up Voter Registration Events (or really any special club events). It's URL is <http://phdemclub.ning.com/>.

ALSO know that we've registered phdemclub.com as well as phdemclub.org, and we use the new phdemclub.com for the sign up with PayPal and audio support.

Online voting for club endorsements. Looking to the idea of allowing members some time to vote for club endorsements. The motion was that members can vote at the meeting, but if they choose, at the end of the meeting their ballots will be given a unique 6 digit code they can use to vote online for up to 7 days from the meeting date. The system is to be presented in August to the club and used in September for the November election cycle. The motion was approved

unanimously.

- **Discussion:** Should the Club be paying for the Neighborhood house?
 - **Pat** made a motion that we pay \$25 / meeting to the Neighborhood house as a gesture of our appreciation. Motion was approved unanimously.
 - Another motion was made to pay a lump sum contribution of \$200 in addition. Motion was approved unanimously.

- **Other new business**
 1. T-Shirts: Kate agreed to get the new T Shirts. Members asked for ones with long sleeves and tank tops.
 2. Our next endorsement meeting are coming up. We need to get an ad into the October Potrero View. A discussion of "Should we send out candidate questionnaires?". A motion was made to send out questionnaires, Rachel and Patrick were appointed as the ad hoc committee on this issue and the motion was approved unanimously.

- **Featured Speakers : Robert Warwick & Peter Angelides** of the Proposition 13 Reform Task Force

Because of Prop 13 tax collection has become more regressive, shifting the burden from those that can to those that cannot afford to pay. Under Prop 13 all properties - both residential and commercial are only reassessed when sold. Otherwise property taxes can only go up 2% per year. On average residential property sells once every 7 years, and commercial once every 14 years. Also commercial properties are often held in trusts where share holders enter and exit part ownership without ever changing the title of the property. These factors together mean commercial property is not paying its fair share of property taxes. The Proposition 13 Reform Task Force proposes removing the 2% cap on increases for commercial property only. This will provide an additional \$4-5 billion in tax revenue. Serrano v. Priest before Prop 13 found that a property-tax based finance system for public schools was unconstitutional because rich communities would have great schools and poorer communities like Oakland would underfund their schools. To enforce this ruling the State took control of the distribution of school funds, some theorize that Prop 13 was a direct response to the State force redistribution of wealth.

- **Split-Roll** refers to separating commercial from residential property in regards to Prop 13 control.

There was a discussion of the split roll proposal and a vote to endorse. The Club endorsed the measure unanimously.

- **Nominations for First Vice President (Program/Membership Chair):** This was Lauren Wechsler's last meeting! She is moving to Boston to go to Harvard. Pat Cleveland was nominated and seconded. There were no other nominations, please get any nominations in before the August meeting, but additional nominations may be made at the beginning of next month's meeting, when the Club will elect a new First Vice President.

- **Meeting adjourned** around 8:30pm