



## **Tuesday April 7th 2009 Meeting Minutes:**

Guest Speakers: Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, Chris Jackson, Rick Wathen, and Paul Hogarth

1. Joni Eisen called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.
2. The agenda and March 2009 minutes were approved.
3. **Officer Reports:**
  - Treasurer - No report submitted this month
  - Membership - 54 members paid-up for 2009 ( up 6 from last month ); only 15 of the 2008 members have not renewed
4. **Featured Speakers:**

### **Supervisor Sophie Maxwell**

Supervisor Maxwell brought an informative handout from the League of California Cities - why we should support or not support the state ballot measures. Although they don't support it 100% it may be necessary to work with the governor. 1A: is the master proposition - if it doesn't Prop 1B cannot go into effect. Increase sales tax, vehicle license fee increase - a portion of which will go for police. Personal income tax increases. Trigger language is for income taxes to increase until 2013. Governor can make cuts mid-year up to 1.6 billion without going back to the legislature. A 5% to 12.5% rainy day fund increase. Can only be used for emergencies, debt maintenance, and infrastructure projects. Prop 1E: \$287-360 million redirected back into the general fund from mental health services. Prop 63 passed in 11/2004 - "the millionaire tax" was supposed to go directly to the cities - but it had a state level approval process that hindered the distribution of the funds. Now 1E proposes raiding the Prop 63 fund to put money back into the general fund. Prop 1C is a manipulation of the lottery revenues to allow borrowing now against future state lottery earnings.

Supervisor Maxwell said "Personally, I believe in paying taxes. It is un-American to not believe in taxes. I feel more of a burden **not paying taxes.**" As a city, we'll probably be neutral on most of these, but 1E we will fight. The city isn't directly affected now - but once they start raiding voter approved funds, when will they stop? To have our set-asides raided is a serious issue.

**Chris Jackson: SB 792 Parks transfer to the SF Redevelopment Agency from the State**

The city wants to develop a regular public park. Eventually we'll transfer it back to the state land commission at a higher value. SB 792 consolidates this process. Chris Jackson is here for the SF Labor Council asking for a letter of support from PHDC before April 29th. Prop G, passed by city voters in June 2008, mandates a certain amount of public space for the redevelopment project. The membership discussed the possibility of an endorsement vote, but it was decided that next meeting would be the earliest the Club could vote on this endorsement.

**Rick Wathen: California Teachers Association Political Organizer - FOR Props 1A through 1F**

Props 1A - 1E are joined at the hip. Your State legislators are in favor of this package. There is a \$42 billion deficit in the State budget. Since we are one of only three states that require a 2/3 majority to pass a budget we find ourselves hostage to the Republican minority that refuses to vote for any tax increase ever. Proposition 56 - mandating a 55% majority instead of 2/3 to pass a budget - failed in March 2004, getting only 36% of the vote because the legislatures' approval rating was and is terrible. Education took \$6.4 billion in cuts. This year 27,000 teachers got pink slips. Region 1 is Northern California - got tons of layoffs. This all really started in 1976 - with Prop 13. The property tax revenue is not enough to fund the schools because of Prop 13. And we cannot add new taxes because that will require a 2/3rd's majority - which takes ALL Dems and 6 Repubs.

CTA supports 1A through 1F. 1A is the most controversial. California has fallen from the top 10 to 48th state in spending per pupil. We have to support these measures because if we don't the legislature will continue to not deliver the funding the schools need. 1B will save \$9.3 billion, 1 1/2% of 1A comes back to fund education.

**Paul Hogarth: Managing Editor of Beyond Chron - AGAINST Props 1A through 1F**

How did we get here? The biggest problem is that you need 2/3 of the legislature to pass a budget or new taxes. What's going on now in national politics is exciting, but State and local are a mess. We have 63% Democrats - not 66%, and a minority of very bitter Republicans. They refuse to pass any taxes no matter what. Recent polling shows removing the 2/3rd's requirement could pass now. He doesn't blame Democrats for what they did - but voters don't have to go along with the bad policy. 1A : the problem is that even in bad times, it requires that funds go into the rainy day fund. It gives the Governor more power to make cuts. If you vote no on 1A it just means the taxes expire in 2 years instead of 4. 1B : \$9.3 billion for public education over a period of several years, not one year as some think. This is money that was owed to the schools anyway, and a better move would have been to sue the state for it. California Teachers Association is satisfied with 1B - but 1B only happens if 1A passes. 1B was added to the ballot as an intentional move to split the constituents on the left. 1C : Schwarzenegger wants to borrow up to 5 billion of future lottery revenues. 1D : redirects Prop 10 ( cigarette tax ) from children's health to the general fund. 1E : redirects money from Prop 63 for mental health services ( a 1% tax on incomes over 1 million a year ) to the general fund. 1F : the least controversial - a populist, cynical measure that saves only a minuscule amount of money.

The entire package is a mess. If you vote against it you just vote against this Faustian bargain. We really cannot have the voters deal with this long term problem with a short term fiscally irresponsible solution.

## **Rick Wathen and Paul Hogarth Took Questions from the Club**

### 5. **Announcements**

Mission Creek cleanup this Saturday April 11th, 9am until noon, still 3 open spots - sign up today.

Mark Leno April 23rd @ Schroeder's Thursday April 23rd, 7PM. Single Payer Health Care: SB 810

The Neighborhood House thanks PHDC for the support and our donation

Rachel: we have 54 current members. Club activities cost money. If you are thinking of joining, please do so today.

Joni: Spoke briefly on how the Club does not take any \$ from candidates to publish the endorsement ads in the Potrero View - all funding comes from the Membership dues!

### 6. **Endorsement Vote Count**

Results: NO on 1A, 1C, 1D, and 1E, and no position on 1B and 1F. Will be published in the May issue of *The Potrero View*

### 7. **Next meeting May 5th** - Topic: TBD

Quint King, Secretary