



Tuesday August 4th 2009 Meeting Minutes:

1. Joni Eisen called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. The agenda and July 2009 minutes were approved.
3. **Officer Reports:**
 - Membership - Rachel Schapira gave a membership update: We currently have 68 members. The Members' Party was a huge success. Over 40 members and guests attended and the silent auction raised \$952 from all the "shop local" merchant donations!
 - Treasurer - Pat Cleveland reported on the Club's finances:
In July:
Spent: \$92.70 (Party Supplies \$62.85; Monthly Meeting Supplies \$29.85)
Received: \$867 (T-shirt Sales \$160; 2 New Memberships \$50; Some of the Silent Auction Income \$657)

\$1576.69 account balance
NOTE: this is a \$774.30 increase from last month, and a collected but not posted \$295 from the silent auction will appear next month.
 - Website - Quint gave a website update: The move from "Blue Utopia" website hosting to an open source solution is complete. The URL of the website is still <http://www.phdemclub.org/> as before, but all the content has been reformatted and entered into a [WordPress](#) site hosted by [DreamHost](#). This move will save the Club around \$200/year in fees. It also gives our website much more flexibility moving forward because we are using open source software instead of the proprietary software from "Blue Utopia".
4. **Tom Gallagher: Afghanistan war exit strategy** With over \$400 billion already spent on the war in Afghanistan, HR 2404 requests that the Secretary of Defense submit a report to Congress outlining the exit strategy for the US military in Afghanistan. After some brief background on the resolution, the Club voted to endorse a resolution urging Speaker Pelosi to co-sponsor HR 2404 and Senators Boxer and Feinstein to file similar legislation - 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention. The endorsement of HR 2404 resolution passed.

5. **Featured Speaker: Phil Ting on Close the Prop 13 Loophole** Many people are not aware that Prop 13 covers EVERY property in the State. Not just private residences, but commercial property as well. Simply put, Prop 13 limits property tax increases to 2% a year unless the property is sold or substantially remodeled. Large corporations are able to hide changes of ownership, so that a reassessment of value is not triggered. Individual homeowners can't do this. As a State, we are spending more money than we take in; we are spending our children's money. We will increase state tax revenue by \$7.5 billion/year if we close the Prop 13 loophole for commercial property.

Prop 13 was brought to us by Howard Jarvis, an apartment building owner, who believed in privatization of everything. His motivation behind Prop 13 was to "starve the beast", that is severely reduce government by underfunding.

Phil opened the floor to questions:

- Traditionally apartment buildings are considered commercial property. Will apartment owners have to raise the rent they charge to make up the gap?
 - It may be better to exclude apartment buildings so there is no pass through to renters.
- What other areas can we reform to better fund government?
 - To start we need to have a real conversation about what government does for us.
 - We need government reform and accountability; pension reform; eliminate the 2/3 requirement to pass a budget, it is in effect minority rule
 - Support canceling the Governor's vehicle license fee rollback (could bring in \$5 to \$7 billion)

6. **Open Mic: Candidates for Supervisor of District 10**

This month we held our first of many open mics for District 10 Supervisor Candidates to introduce themselves. The speaking order was drawn by lot; the speakers in order were:

Linda Richardson
Steve Moss
Malia Cohen
Eric Smith
Diane Westley Smith
DeWitt Lacy

For audio of the candidates, go to our website: http://www.phdemclub.org/?page_id=616.

7. **Announcements:**

- Joe Boss: Rebuild Potrero. We have an opportunity to rebuild and make it an integrated part of the community. Please show up at the workshops to help make this happen. More info at [website](#).
- Keith Goldstein: Potrero Hill Festival coming October 17th. Lots of great live music, local craft vendors, and a pre-Festival breakfast with live jazz at the Neighborhood House. More info at [website](#).

8. **Next meeting September 1st** - Topic: Endorsement meeting for November Municipal Election, also Open Source Voting presentation by Alan Dechert.

Quint King, Secretary