

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting Potrero Hill Democratic Club
Held May 7, 2013**

1. The regular meeting of the Potrero Hill Democratic Club (the “Club”) was held at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on May 7, 2013.
2. Joni Eisen, President of the Club, called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm local time.
3. The Club, at Ms. Eisen’s request, approved by acclamation the minutes of the April 2, 2013, meeting of the Club. The Club further approved by acclamation the agenda for the current meeting without amendment.
4. Monisha Mustapha, the Club’s Vice President and Chair of Membership, delivered the Membership Report. She reported that in the last month, eight members had renewed their dues, resulting in 65 paid members of the Club to date. This was 16 members fewer than at the same time the prior year. Ms. Mustapha noted that additional members had joined that evening and that their memberships were not reflected in her report.
5. Maulik Shah, Executive Committee Member at Large, delivered the Political Action Report. He reported that the Club had registered voters at the April 14 Sunday Streets event in the Mission District. Mr. Shah further reported that the Club was co-sponsoring a program entitled “Building Public Trust, Political Reform for the 21st Century,” organized by the District 3 Democratic Club, at the Main Branch of the San Francisco Public Library on May 22 at 7:30 pm. Update: That program was canceled.
6. Ms. Eisen then gave a report on the California DISCLOSE Act. The DISCLOSE Act was scheduled to be heard before the California Senate Appropriations Committee on May 13 or May 20. Ms. Eisen further reported that the Club would have a table to register voters at the Sunday Streets event to be held on June 9 in the Dogpatch and Bayview Districts. The Club will be near Esprit Park in Dogpatch.
7. Robert Boileau, Executive Committee Member at Large, then presented a resolution opposing future cuts to the Social Security program. The resolution had been circulated to the Club’s members along with the agenda for the meeting. Following a brief discussion among the membership, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was approved by the Club by a vote of ten members in favor, none opposed and two abstaining:

WHEREAS, Social Security was established to provide economic security to Americans through benefits earned based on contributions made over the lifetime of the worker, that Social Security has accumulated assets of \$2,700,000,000,000 and does not contribute to the Federal budget deficit, and is designed to ensure that benefits keep pace with inflation through cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs); WHEREAS, even the current COLAs don’t reflect that Social Security beneficiaries spend more of their income proportionally on health care than regular wage earners, and thus already underestimate increases in the cost of living of Social Security beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, using the Chained CPI (Consumer Price Index) formula would further reduce Social Security benefits, and would also reduce benefits to disabled veterans, and would also cut the benefits of more than 350,000 surviving spouses and children;

WHEREAS, any earned income over the current cap of \$113,700 is not subject to Social Security taxes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Potrero Hill Democratic Club calls upon the President and Congress not to use the Chained Consumer Price Index to calculate cost-of living adjustments for Social Security or veterans’ benefits, thereby increasing the tax burden

on low- and middle-income taxpayers, and instead to lift – or scrap - the cap on income subject to Social Security taxes, ensuring that the wealthy pay their fair share.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, our Congressional Representative, our U.S. Senators, and to President Obama.

Addendum to the Resolution in Opposition to Cuts in Social Security Benefits.

The following is hereby incorporated into the attached Resolution:

President Obama said, in a speech to the AARP Convention on Sept. 6, 2008, “McCain’s campaign has suggested that the best answer to the growing pressure on Social Security might be to cut cost-of-living adjustments or raise the retirement age. I will do neither.” Potrero Hill Democratic Club helped to get President Obama elected, and its members expect him to keep his word.

8. Ms. Eisen then introduced the program for the meeting, entitled “Health Care Reform And What It Means to YOU:” The extremely knowledgeable panel consisted of Bonnie Preston, MSPH, Outreach & Policy Specialist at the US Department of Health & Human Services, to discuss basics about the federal law and our state’s insurance exchange, (Covered California) where people can compare plans and determine eligibility for tax credits; Patricia McGinnis, Executive Director of California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, on the effects of reform on seniors; Sumi Sousa, Officer of Policy Development and Coverage Programs at San Francisco Health Plan, with a San Francisco perspective. Ms. Sousa also helped write the law that created Covered California. The discussion, including extensive audience Q&A, was both detailed and far-ranging.
9. Ms. Eisen announced that the Club had been invited to attend a program on May 22 at 7:30, at St. Phillips Church, hosted by the Noe Valley Democratic Club, entitled “Boom: What’s Happening with the S.F. Economy.” Ms. Eisen then asked if there were any further announcements. There were none.
10. Ms. Eisen announced that the next meeting of the Club would take place on June 4, 2013, with a topic to be determined. There being no further business before the Club, Ms. Eisen adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
J.R. Eppler, Secretary