

## **March 1, 2016 Potrero Hill Democratic Club Meeting minutes**

Members present: 16, plus 30 nonmembers who sign in, and several more who didn't

President Joni Eisen called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM

Agenda: the agenda as presented was accepted by the membership.

Minutes for February 2, 2016: accepted as presented.

Solutions to Homelessness panel discussion was moderated by PHDC VP Tony Kelly, with the following panel members:

Emily Cohen, Deputy Director, Mayor's Office of HOPE

Ken Fisher, Founder/Designer, RouteHome

Julie Leadbetter, Director, San Francisco Navigation Center

Shira Noel, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, Homeless Youth Alliance

Amy Farah Weiss, Founder/Director, Saint Francis Homelessness Challenge

Before the panel discussion began, Melodie, who lost her apartment in 2007 and lives in her vehicle, read a letter she had written protesting the practice of seizing possessions of the unhoused many times violating the 72-hour required notification. In one instance a friend's truck was towed forcing him to struggle to recover the contents and perhaps causing his premature death.

During the panel discussion several major themes were highlighted: the criminalization of homelessness; inadequate funding by the city, state and federal governments; the impact of sleep deprivation on the unhoused; the desperate need for both temporary and permanent housing; use of city owned land for encampments with services such as porta-potties and support staff; the fact that the unhoused population remains steady at about 6,500 to 6,800 year after year even with many being moved to permanent housing; the need for action now on the city's part - delaying steps have gone on too long; and the desirability of creating communities among the unhoused with financial support to encourage the communities to develop programs that they want/need.

Questions and comments from the audience furthered the discussion.

The program concluded at 9 PM.

Announcement: the PHDC will meet on April 5 and 12 for endorsements in candidate races and on ballot issues that will be on the June ballot.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM

Submitted by Gary Horowitz, secretary