



New 2023 Members:

Sue Swackhamer
Stephanie Williams-
Rogers

Renewing Members

Marsha Brown
Collin Coffey
Suzanne Cook
Walter Cook
Jane Gorman
Marc Gradstein
Rand Payton
David Shaeffer
Sarah Shaeffer
Barbara Wozniak
Greg Wozniak

General Meeting Agenda

May 21, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Conducted In-Person and via Zoom

Any Questions: MarshCreekDems@gmail.com

I Call to Order and Introductions (New members, Dignitaries) (3 minutes)

A. Zoom:

1. All Zoom Attendees will be muted
2. Please rename your Zoom to your first and last name.
3. To ask questions: Raise Hand

II Minutes for March and April (3 minutes)

A. Motion to Adopt March Minutes: Motion BN 2nd LS passed by acclamation

B. Motion to Adopt April Minutes: Motion BN 2nd LS passed by acclamation

III Agenda Review (3 minutes)

A. Any changes to the agenda? New Business (Linda) Also Jovita Mendoza

B. Motion to Adopt Agenda: Motion CV 2nd EB passed by acclamation

IV Shannon Skinner – President (5 minutes)

A. General update: All MCDC committees are looking for additional help

V Carolina Villaseca – Vice President (3 minutes)

A. Upcoming Speakers:

1. June – Dr. Sara Levin, Contra Costa Deputy Health Officer on women’s reproductive rights
2. July – Cheryl Sudduth, regarding participation on Environmental panel, Susannah Day of Giving
3. August – Lori Wilson, California State Assemblywoman

B. If you have a person who would like to come and speak to our club, please contact Carolina Villaseca at (216) 570-1270 or mcvillaseca@yahoo.com

VI Today’s Guest Speaker – (15 minutes)

Tim Grayson, California State Assemblymember from the 15th District

See below

VII Membership – Elinor Bell, Co-Chair (3 minutes)

A. To date, we have 74 members.

B. Dues are \$20 \$10 for students

C. Ways to join — Credit Card at <https://www.marshcreekdems.org/all-products> or Venmo MarshCreekDems (3416) or Check sent to Thuy DaoJensen/MCDC, P.O. Box 521, Brentwood, CA 94513

B. Renewing Members become Members in Good Standing and may vote as soon as dues are paid.

New members become Members in Good Standing and may vote 30 days after their dues are paid.

VIII Voter Outreach: Linda Smith (5 minutes)

- A. Farmer’s Market Update – Thanks to Joe Ely and Doug, Liz Fuller, Tamela Hawley, Sue Higgins and Suzanne Cook for staffing our booth.
- B. June 20th Virginia Primary next
- C. Website www.MarshCreekDems.org – 2386 Visitors this year
 - 1. Website Editor Needed - Linda will train

IX Social Justice – Ray Cole, Chair – E-mail Ray at raycole6s@outlook.com to join the committee

- A. Committee is just forming and setting priorities

X Issues and Legislation – Bill Nusbaum, Chair (3 minutes) – Saturday, June 3rd 11:30 am

- A. Meetings are held via Zoom on the first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am. The
- B. Topics for Development – Basis for recommendations.
 - 1. Voter suppression
 - 2. Zoning and Growth
 - 3. Ethics Rules for Courts
 - 4. Gun Control
 - 5. Civics in the Classroom
 - 6. Poverty in Contra Costa County
 - 7. Infrastructure of Climate Change
 - 8. Political Homelessness

XI Carolina Villaseca, Chair of Publications and Social Media Committee (3 minutes)

- A. **Contact Carolina at** (216) 570-1270 or mcvillaseca@yahoo.com.
- B. We are continually posting important items on Facebook regarding news and calls to action. Send any call to action to Carolina at marshcreekdems@gmail.com. Check our Facebook page often for our frequent updates, and post your comments and “likes” whenever you can!

XII DPCCC District 3 Update – Carolina Villaseca, DPCCC District 3 Director (3 minutes)

- A. Attended the groundbreaking of the new TK-8 school in Brentwood as part of the citizens Measure B oversight committee. The school will open for the 2024/2025 school year for TK-5 grade. The junior high is TBD
- B. Organizing parents to name the school after Mr. Bill Harms. He volunteers thousands of hours at Pioneer El, Friends of the Brentwood Library, the Brentwood Rotary Club and the Village Community Center
- C. Attended multiple school board meetings to help residents organize with redistricting.
- D. Brentwood City Council Report
- E. I’m working with residents to help support Vice Mayor Susannah Meyer and Councilmember Jovita Mendoza.
- F. Antioch is still working through the blowback of the FBI investigation. Mayor Thorpe, Vice Mayor Torres Walker and Councilperson Wilson have hired personal security due to death threats.
- G. Continuing to find/meet with potential candidates in District 3 to ensure candidates understand what they are running for, start to get known in their districts, and keep track of moving pieces like Glaser’s court case to see if he can run again. That will set off a domino effect of candidates deciding what to run for.
- H. I attended the ribbon cutting the launch of the city’s first 24/7 non-police mobile crisis response team. It is being called the Angelo Quinto Community Response Team. Proposed by Councilwoman Monica E. Wilson in 2020, the Antioch mobile crisis response team is the first of its kind in Contra Costa County and one of only a few 24/7 city programs in the Bay Area. The program will cost \$1.8 million annually and initially will be paid from \$3.6 million in American Rescue Plan Act monies the City Council allocated for it last April. Headed by the Felton Institute of Alameda, the team will relieve Antioch police from nonviolent, non-life-threatening, low-level calls that they normally would answer.
 - (1) In attendance: Mayor Thorpe, Vice Mayor Torres-Walker, Council Member Wilson, Dr. Jag AUSD, Antonio Hernandez AUSD, Pat Young Water District, Debra Vinson ECCD, Gigi Crowder NAMI, Rep for Garamendi, Rep for Grayson, Rep for Wilson, Katie Ricklefs DPCCC.
 - (2) Missing: Council Members Barbanica and Orgorchock, BoS Diane Burgis and Federal Glover.
- I. Knightsen has decided to put a ballot measure to dissolve their Town Advisory council. This was formed to deal specifically with flooding and drainage. They passed a bond of \$50/parcel but they only have 600 parcels. They have no staff and cannot provide the services they were created to provide. The hearing is taking place in June 12th @ 2:00pm.

XIII Swing Left – Doug McClelland (5 minutes)

- A. Doug will be discussing the increased danger of trump/authoritarianism and again discussing Swing Left plans for the upcoming 18 months. Please consider what you can do to save/restore American Democracy

XIV Treasurer’s Report – Thuy DaoJensen, Treasurer (5 minutes)

XV Brentwood Community Center Movie Event – Co-Chairs – Don Smith and Bill Randall (5 minutes)

- A. On hold due to COST of facilities and licensing
 B. Movie Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGsGRSgZbXY>
 C. Movie followed by discussion led by Bill Randall
 D. Suggested donation - \$10 – \$ 15 - \$20
 E. Costs

Location	Capacity	Hourly	# of hours	Cost	Movie License	Total
Brentwood Community Room	150	\$130	3.5	455	495	\$ 950
Trilogy Event Center	100		3	400	495	\$ 895
AMC Theater	300		3.5	\$1,200	495	\$ 1,695

- F. School rentals are even more due to custodial charge after hours \$170 to \$230(Theater)
 G. AMC theater tickets cost \$1979 for Adults and \$1829 for Seniors
 H. Other ideas
 (1) Shannon will look into downtown theater (when it will open and be available).
 (2) Another suggestion was Shadow Creek event center. Pruitt Ranch Community Center on Lone Tree was also suggested.
 I. Possibly move it to the Fall.

XVI For the Good of the Order (comments/suggestions) (3 minutes)

XVII Adjournment:

**Marsh Creek Dems Treasurer’s Financial Statement
 April 3 - May 7, 2023**

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	BALANCE as of April 3, 2023:	\$ 3,095.03
6-Apr-2023	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
12-Apr-2023	SQUARE deposit of (2) membership dues	\$38.54
14-Apr-2023	CHECK deposit of (2) membership dues	\$40.00
4-May-2023	VENMO deposit of (8) membership dues	\$160.00
4-May-2023	Donations from VENMO	\$180.00
	Total INCOME	\$ 3,532.69

Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
	Total EXPENSES	\$0.00

BALANCE as of May 7, 2023: \$ 3,532.69

Tim Grayson – Introduction and Questions and Answers.

Introduction:

Tim Grayson is the first Assemblyman to come and speak to MCDC. He is the son of a Teamster father and his mother was a public transit worker. He has been a longtime East Bay resident who lives in Concord where he raised his two kids with his wife, Tammy. Grayson continues to serve as the Concord Police Department's Critical Response Chaplain providing emotional support and counsels responders, victims and their families during and after a traumatic events. He has held this position since 2007. Assemblyman Grayson has also maintained a license as a General Contractor since 1997. His political career began in 2010 when he was elected to serve on the Concord City Council. He also served as Mayor from 2014 to 2015. He then won his bid to serve in the State Assembly. He has focused on issues related to addressing California's housing and transportation crises, increasing the budget reserves and accessing higher education, mitigation human trafficking, minimizing the risk of California wild fires and helping individuals with special needs. He has authored 40 bills that have now been signed into law. He is also a cofounder of the Contra Costa Family Justice Center and he has a long and proven history of advocating for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and child and elder abuse. Grayson has also introduced legislation to bring 7 billion dollars in funding for new and higher education campus construction and repair of existing facilities. He has served on the following committees:

Chair, Banking and Finance; Business and Profession:, Insurance, Revenue and Taxation; Chair, Select Committee on Streamlining Services for Victims of Interpersonal Violence; Select Committee on Green Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Select Committee on Mobility in the Golden State.

Questions and Answers:

Q: I am concerned that Governor Newsom is coming after CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act). What are we going to do to make sure that doesn't happen?

A: It was originally designed and implemented as a policy to address public works projects. Over time, because of the unprecedented growth in California, it has expanded to almost all projects -how does it impact the environment, traffic, jobs

I am addressing HCD (The California Department of Housing and Community Development) that is holding cities feet to the fire on their housing programs that they are turning in. I am going to go back and hold their feet to the fire to make sure that we don't take negative actions against communities on their housing plan when the ratio of housing way outweighs the amount of jobs they can provide. So, if there is a community that is overloaded on housing compared to a ratio of jobs, no action should be taken against them at all for any housing plan until that community is able to build a job sector, something so that people can live, work and play all in the same area and help build the quality of life in California.

CEQA – The governor is going to come out in the next week or two to reveal some language and we are anxiously waiting to hear. I have in my tool box the CEQA Protection Act to counter anything that might come out and make sure that we keep CEQA intact. However, I will also work on the other side to make sure we de- weaponize it so that it stays pure, it stays right and is a tool for the community to make sure we address traffic impacts, types of housing, how much housing and jobs. I will work closely with locals to be sure we are on the same page.

Q. Will that be reflected in SB423?

A. We are working on that. This past Friday was appropriations day and that is on the Senate side and I don't know whether that made it out of Appropriations. If it did, I am a coauthor on that and I will explain the reason why. If I am co-

author, I can sit at the table and talk about that bill. If I am not a co-author, they really don't care about my voice. I am working to make sure that we get the right things. I will tell you that it appears like there has been a negotiated deal with trades to make sure we have a skilled and trained workers building our structures.

Q. My question is in regard to crypto-mining and its effects on the greenhouse gases as well as a huge sink on our electrical needs when we are trying to build up capacity. We have quite a few crypto mines in California. What concerns might you have on their competing and conflicting objectives and public needs?

A. I have use concerns when we are pushing very fast to go onto an all-electric grid and where we have people's lives at risk. If the electrical goes out their health is on the line. This last summer there was a 10-day period where what we had mandated and said this certain industry has to plug in order to run (we can't run off generators) received a phone call from the administration saying in the next 10 days unplug and go back to your generators because California was in an energy crisis that we all didn't know very much about. I think that the mining has a lot to do with the strain and demand on our grid and until we get some answers, we've got to figure out how do we locate them and how do we prepare for them to go off the grid and not the folks who depend on the grid for their health.

Q. More to the point, is it to the benefit for the California public and citizens to have and support through whatever means the local governments are using to locate crypto mines in their area at the peril of the rest of the population of California. Is that something that the California State Government should be doing more aggressively?

A. I need to research that some more as well. I think that is a great question for the PUC (Public Utility Commission) who regulates that. I think that is a great question for my office to write a letter to the PUC asking for how many crypto mining operations we have in California and where are those mining locations and what grids do they impact the most.

Q. What is a crypto mine?

A. A crypto-mine is just one computer after another computer after another computer and what is happening is the operator is running algorithms on trades and basically operating block-chains (which is another technology and weapon). It is very complicated. I will ask the PUC.

Q. My question is on money in politics. We have one bill in the assembly right now, AB 270 (Political Reform Act of 1974: public campaign financing) and it allows general law cities to do public financing, which they are not allowed to do right now. It is to put a measure on the 2024 ballot to allow general law cities to do their own public campaign financing. That is one of the bills I would like your opinion on. The other is Ab 83 (Get more money out of California Elections Act) – Campaign finance reform regarding contributions and expenditures by foreign-influenced business entities.

A. In November 2016 the assembly voted in and supported a bill I joint authored that called for transparency in campaign financing and demanded that on any campaign piece they had to list the top donors. Philosophically, when it comes to campaign financing, I am all about transparency and accountability, making sure that the people know who paid for this campaign piece and how much was contributed. I think that is very important. One of the most frustrating things for voters, and this has happened here even in the East Bay, where outside money and outside sources fund a particular campaign and they prevail. It was outside influences that caused the constituency to take on a mindset that otherwise would not have happened. I am all about transparency and accountability. I would have to read the bills specifically and that is what my team is doing this weekend now that we had appropriations take place on Friday. All the bills got put out and some were held back. I will be briefed on Monday. In principle, I will generally support something that goes on the ballot so that the people can decide how they want to move forward in their local municipality.

Q. Will you support both of these bills.

A. I will read them and get back to you whether these bills have my support.

Q. I am really concerned about the racist environment in Antioch, the largest city in your district has gone to hell and people are being harassed and disrespected. In my mind it is like electronic lynching. We've heard from people here and there. In your experience as the chaplain for the concord police you reference as being. You know that the perpetrators

alleged of the crimes are often the victims of the police. Our good friend, the supervisor for district 4, said he never saw any emails like that. I hope that is really what has happened. I believe him. I don't hire you to not believe you. So, that is my question – Where are we going forward, in your district, in that city with all our help. How do I know, other than knowing you and Ken that the Concord police don't have their own little gang going? Or Brentwood. It is serious. I have been involved politically for quite a while and when I went to college, we were fighting racism the same way. We are done with this.

A. Amen. I agree with you. What is happening in Antioch is intolerable and inexcusable. One of the first actions I did when it came out was to connect with seatmate who is the President of the California Legislative Black Caucus, Assemblymember Lori Wilson. She needs our prayers now as she is fighting her own battle with cancer. I partnered with her and I was very careful to make sure that in my position I do not undermine what their mission is going to be. We together drafted the letters that have since come out in the public requesting that the Attorney General get involved in the full-on investigation and not just leave it to outside parties out of state to make sure that California was just as much involved in that. It sickens my stomach. We have no room for that kind of behavior in any part of our community, especially in the part of the community that should be trusted the absolute most, and that is our police department. When it comes to Concord, or any other police department, they need to be held accountable like any one of us would be held accountable. I think it would be incredible and I would fully support our DA to come up with a task force that would simply go through each agency in our purview in Contra Costa County and make sure what level of audit should be done. I would be very supportive of making sure that we test the integrity of all our police agencies. Trust is first and foremost and our agencies need to have that level of trust with the community if they expect to have the support in that community. I will continue to partner with my colleague, Lori Wilson, and make sure that we work in tandem as partners and me not getting ahead of myself. This is about building a name or reputation, this is about protecting an entire community that has been violated and where trust has been broken.

Q. You mentioned earlier that you are in great support of Silicon Valley and all of its innovative efforts. And I am wondering what your stance is on AI which is also a big to do coming out of that area. Do you support AI?

A. I will continue work, as I have, in the Assembly on two things that are very important to me. Consumer protection and privacy rights. When it comes to AI, there are some serious challenges that we are facing as to how far that goes. How algorithms run our lives and dictate the steps that we take. AI is conveniently starting to creep into all areas of our life - from how you shop in a grocery store, to how often you put gas or fuel in your car and the places that you go, let alone the privacy that is being violated every time you sign on to the internet. I will be fighting vigorously for privacy policy as well as making sure we continue to hold an iron clad grip on consumer protection.

Q. Did you watch the Senate hearings this week on AI. The communications that were given by the Senator who was speaking with a face that wasn't his and it wasn't his voice. Coming back to AI and the trust factor and how it can emulate a person just like you and it can call out various conversations that are really not coming from you but we see your image and we hear your voice. You are talking about privacy and we are talking about trust.

A. I am not going to take credit for it, I am going to give credit to the wonderful team that I have had the privilege of working with since I've been in Sacramento. The staff was far, far ahead of its time when I ran a bill about 5 years ago about deep fakes which was at the time the beginnings of AI in a very elementary form. I saw the video and I received a text that said I was way ahead of my time with your deep fake bill. It is very disturbing. I went to Berkeley because I wanted more than just a surface knowledge of deep fakes and AI. I wanted to dive deep in it and was able to meet with some really incredible people in a doctoral program as well as some students who were specifically working in detail with AI and deep fakes when it came to the suicide rates of high school students whose images were used in pornography and spread out to friends at school causing high school students to commit suicide because it looked so real when all it was their image but you could hear their voice to match what was coming out of their mouth when it wasn't them at all. Very devastating. It is a very serious thing that we should all be paying attention to.

Q. A comment on AI. AI is concerning to me. I watched a special on 60 minutes talking to Google about AI and their development in AI. They were asked what is going to be the impact to normal people? Essentially, there comment was,

“They are just going to have to get used to AI.” It is really important that the government steps in and takes control of this development because if we don’t, AI will begin to control us.

My question to you is this. You mentioned about police departments and public gaining trust in them again. I would like to see the State move forward to force every city in the State of California to have a citizen’s board to review what the police department is doing. Right now, many citizens, especially in Antioch, feel totally separated from what the police does and that is what causes problems. I know that the Board of Supervisors looked at the Sheriff’s Department having a citizens oversight committee in the Sheriff’s Department and it was voted down. I think that is extremely important and I would like to see you move forward on that front. Your feelings about that?

A.I hear your voice loud and clear when it comes to AI and will continue to fight for consumer protection and privacy. I also encourage this crowd here to join me in reaching out to our federal partners – our congressional representatives and Senators because it is going to have to take a partnership of both federal and state to really move the needle on these companies like Google and others that are using this to their advantage at our expense.

When it comes to holding our public safety agencies accountable – What you mentioned were cities, I mentioned D.A. I think both of us agree that all of them need to be held accountable. With that we will work together and partner and find the best most effective way to hold our public safety agencies accountable whether it is police, fire or EMS to make sure that they remain the public servants with the integrity with which we swore them in -whether that means a community council like some cities have in the East Bay (I think Oakland has one) or whether it is an oversight committee that comes straight out of the DA’s office or whether it is a local municipality that puts together some sort of task force. Something along those lines – I am willing to have discussions and open conversations on a thing we both agree on and that is holding our agencies accountable and that we will do. Right now, we have the ability to go before our city councils and voice our concerns so that we can make our voice in known.