



**Minutes**  
**February 20, 2022**  
Conducted via Zoom and In Person  
Any Questions: MarshCreekDems@gmail.com

**Since January 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**New Members:**  
Ian Cohen, Kristin Connelly, Suzanne Cook, Walter Cook, Mike Kleeman, Crystal Sawyer- White, Marilynn Schuyler

**Renewing Members:**  
Beverly Brown, Susan Burleson, Joe Ely, Kathy Ely, Robin Ermolik, Luci Flynn, Tamela Hawley, Carole Main, Doug McClelland, Jovita Mendoza, Susannah Meyer, Daphne Muse, David Shaeffer, Sarah Shaeffer, Steve Shear, Susan Shear, Desty Shoemaker, Carol Tomei, John Tomei, Barbara Wozniak, Greg Wozniak

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

- A. All Attendees have been muted.
- B. Please rename your Zoom to your first and last name.
- C. At the end of the presentations, our speaker will take a few questions.
  - 1. Use Chat, or click Reactions and Raise Hand.

**II Minutes for January**

- A. Motion to Adopt Agenda: Motion DM 2<sup>nd</sup> JE

**III Elections Committee: Don Smith for Valerie Thurston**

- A. The following Member in Good Standing submitted Intent to Run
  - 1. Secretary – Connie Harden
- B. Election of Officers by Acclamation
  - 1. By-Laws VII. H. In the Absence of a contest, the election was by acclamation.

**IV Agenda Review (3 minutes)**

- A. Any changes to the agenda
- B. Motion to Adopt Agenda: Motion JE 2<sup>nd</sup> MF

**V Shannon Skinner - President**

- A. Update
  - 1. Endorsement committees and process – Shannon Skinner discussed the commencement of the endorsement process for offices within our MCDC area and noted that we will be updating the questionnaires and other analytical tools we use. Last year, we relied primarily on the DPCCC materials, which we found did not precisely meet our needs. The DPCCC endorsement process is also under way, and DPCCC is seeking volunteers to help.
  - 2. MCDC needs to undertake fundraising initiatives to assist the candidates we support, and we are looking for ideas.

**VI Yolanda Mendrek – Vice President (3 minutes)**

- A. Update on Future Presentations
  - 1. The Brentwood Chief of Police will speak at our March 20 meeting.
  - 2. Paula Hawthorn, Ph.D. will speak at our April 10 meeting and will discuss gun control and the current work of the Brady Campaign. Ms. Hawthorn has been very active in Oakland's efforts to reduce gun ownership and violence and to promote social justice.
  - 3. EC Mental Health Issues – National Alliance on Mental Issues (NAMI) of Contra Costa

**VII Guest Speakers: 2:20 – 2:50 and 2:55 – 3:00**

- A. **Lori Wilson – Unopposed candidate for CA State Assembly in special election to replace Assemblyman Jim Fraser in A. D.11**

Suisun Mayor Lori Wilson discussed her unopposed campaign for CA State Assembly and the upcoming special election to be held on April 6. During her 12-year career of public service, Mayor Wilson has served as head of the Suisun Parks and Recreation Department, on the Suisun City Council, as Suisun Vice Mayor, and now as Suisun Mayor. Throughout her career, Mayor Wilson's focus has been on the right of every person to have a high quality of life, including housing security, health care (including mental health care), quality public education, childcare, environmental protection, and economic development opportunities.

Next Saturday (2/26/22) at 1:00 pm, Mayor Wilson will be holding a "meet and greet" free taco bar event, at which social distancing guidelines will be followed. Further information about the event is on her website and will be emailed to members. Information will also be posted on the MCDC website.

1. In response to Joe Ely's question, she stated that, following election to the Assembly, she plans to hold regular town halls and to maintain convenient local offices. In response to another question, she discussed her support of single-payer healthcare.
2. Brentwood City Council Member Jovita Mendoza noted our local concerns regarding oil and gas drilling. She also raised the issue of the 67 pending bills regarding the housing inventory crisis, as well as the State's infringement of local control in housing. Council Member Mendoza also noted that developers and investors must be held accountable, and that we need flexibility in developing a balance between local control and the overall need to increase affordable housing.
3. BART Board President (and District 2 Board Member) Mark Foley pointed out current financing issues for public transit. Ridership has dropped very substantially because of Covid, and budgets built on ridership fares are completely inadequate. Currently, for most people who use BART, it is a lifeline. Public transit is both an important economic equalizer and environmental benefit.
4. Brentwood City Council Member Susannah Meyer mentioned SB 8 and the need for better planning of more complete neighborhoods.
5. Ian Cohen called for action to stop oil and gas drilling in Contra Costa County. Details, including the date and time of an upcoming demonstration and march against drilling, are on the MCDC website.

#### **B. Michael Dupray – Community organizer and activist**

Michael Dupray discussed the disproportionate impact that recent rent increases of as much as 9% are having on seniors in our communities. The amount of subsidized housing for seniors is completely inadequate, and much of it is very poor quality. Furthermore, rental assistance is available only for individuals spending 60% of income on rent. That threshold should be reduced to 30%, which was applicable in the past. Developers are restricted for only 10 years in the amount of rent increases they may impose after a new development becomes occupied, but unlimited increases may be imposed after that. The 10-year limit should be raised to 20 years. This situation is resulting in terrible hardship for seniors, many of whom could become homeless. In fact, this situation threatens the very lives of those affected. Mr. Dupray advocated petitioning state housing authorities regarding these basic equity issues. In addition, compliance with the California tax credit allocation rules, as well as the HUD rules, must be enforced. A further important measure to improve the wellbeing of seniors is the elimination of taxation of Social Security benefits.

#### **VIII Membership – Linda Smith and Doug McClelland (3 minutes)**

- A. **2022 Membership – 53 Members** – February 19, 2022 to February 18, 2023
  1. 47 members in Feb of 2021

[www.MarshCreekDems.org](http://www.MarshCreekDems.org)

Facebook: Marsh Creek Dems

2. 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. **Let's all encourage our friends and neighbors to join.**
- B. Renewing Members become Members in Good Standing and may vote as soon as their dues are paid.
- C. New members become Members in Good Standing and may vote 30 days after their dues are paid.

**IX Voter Outreach – Linda Smith (3 minutes) –**

- A. **Brentwood Farmer's Market** at Bank of America Corner most Saturdays
  1. Volunteers needed – 8 to 11
- B. **Postcard/Letter Writing** – 500 postcards are being sent to register Black voters in Texas
  1. We will begin letter writing to Swing States at the end of February

**X Swing Left Director – Doug McClelland (3 minutes)**

- A. Swing Left Update
  1. Doug McClelland urged us to participate in letter and postcard writing initiatives, and to get our friends and relatives involved. Our goal for this year is to send at least 5,000 letters and postcards, all of which will be mailed by October 29.
  2. Swing Left will hold a Wine Barn event on March 3. On March 6, an event will take place at Mountain Mike's.

**XI Issues Committee – Bill Nusbaum (3 - 5 minutes) – Meetings first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am.**

- A. Next Meeting - **Sat. March 5<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30 via Zoom
- B. Bill noted that the Committee is currently working on gun control issues. He will be in touch with Paula Hawthorn (our April speaker) to discuss her efforts nationally and in Oakland.

**XII Communications – Carolina Villaseca (3 minutes)**

- A. Posting on Facebook regarding important news and call to action. Send any call to action to Carolina Villaseca at [marshcreekdems@gmail.com](mailto:marshcreekdems@gmail.com)
- B. Support our local school boards! The state of California is looking at ending mask mandates at a meeting on 2/28. We've already seen protests at Bristow Junior High, Liberty High School, and the District office this past week from a group wanting to end the mandate now. They are also planning on showing up to both schoolboard meetings. Both Brentwood School Boards are meeting on 2/23 at 7:00pm. Brentwood is on ZOOM and the link is: [2444503936200754108.pdf](https://2444503936200754108.pdf) ([schoolloop.com](http://schoolloop.com)) Send comments to:  
Liberty: [Comments@luhsd.net](mailto:Comments@luhsd.net)  
Brentwood: [Nkleven@brentwood.k12.ca.us](mailto:Nkleven@brentwood.k12.ca.us)
- C. Redistricting of City Council seats is almost done in Brentwood. Two maps were chosen by the redistricting commission, Navy and Lime. Both have similar deviations and populations and for the most part keep neighborhoods intact. Here is the link for the website: City of Brentwood, CA - Redistricting ([brentwoodca.gov](http://brentwoodca.gov))  
Carolina will be hosting 2 meetings on 2/24 via ZOOM at 10:00am and at 7:00pm to go over the maps. Please use this link:  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6304996072?pwd=ZGVhcDZYVVUuRQWFMRVdIMEZ5anNMdz09>  
What we need to do after our meeting is:  
On March 3, 2022, during the City Council Meeting, City Council will select one of the two submitted maps without modifying.  
Here are ways Residents can provide feedback:  
- Send an email with your feedback to [redistricting@brentwoodca.gov](mailto:redistricting@brentwoodca.gov)

- Give your feedback by calling (925)516-5440, and
- Give public testimony during the March 3, 2022, City Council Meeting.

D. In Antioch, Monica Wilson needs our support, as efforts are underway to eliminate her district.

**XIII Precinct Task Force –Carolina Villaseca (3 minutes) Update**

- A. Precinct Captains – Carolina Villaseca, Harry Thurston, Linda Smith, Thuy DaoJensen, Marcita Enis, Doug McClelland, Audrey Wright, Troy Christensen, Jennifer Baker, and Gary Chambers
- B. Precinct Captains and Buddies are needed for all of our cities.

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

**Marsh Creek Dems Treasurer’s Financial Statement  
January 3 - February 6, 2022**

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	<b>BALANCE as of January 3, 2022:</b>	<b>\$2,874.31</b>
4-Jan-2022	VENMO deposit (6) membership dues	\$116.00
5-Jan-2022	CHECK membership dues (1)	\$40.00
5-Jan-2022	SQUARE deposit of (2) membership dues	\$38.54
12-Jan-2022	SQUARE deposit of (4) membership dues	\$76.48
13-Jan-2022	SQUARE deposit of (2) membership dues	\$120.77
18-Jan-2022	SQUARE deposit of (5) membership dues	\$100.45
19-Jan-2022	SQUARE deposit of (2) membership dues	\$57.66
23-Jan-2022	CHECKS deposit of (5) membership dues	\$100.00
23-Jan-2022	Donation	\$50.00
24-Jan-2022	CHECKS deposit of (3) membership dues	\$60.00
24-Jan-2022	SQUARE deposit of (2) membership dues	\$38.54
1-Feb-2022	CHECKS deposit of (3) membership dues	\$60.00
1-Feb-2022	Donation for stamps	\$16.00
1-Feb-2022	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
	<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 893.56</b>

Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
	None	
	<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$-</b>

<b>BALANCE as of February 6, 2022:</b>	<b>\$3,767.87</b>
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**XV For the Good of the Order (comments/suggestions) (3 minutes)**

- A. Suisun Mayor Lori Wilson, unopposed candidate for CA Assembly, is seeking campaign volunteers and contributions, and information can be found on her website: [ElectLoriWilson.com](http://ElectLoriWilson.com).
- B. Zoom chats have resumed and take place at 10 am on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month
- C. In honor of Herb E's passing, a \$50 donation of stamps was made to the club. Herb was born in 1930, served in the Navy, was called up to active duty during the Cuban missile crisis and although an NRA member, was democratic-sympathetic. When he was asked last year about the current situation with Trump and our democracy, he just looked up and said, "It's really sad." He bought stamps for his son to write letters, so the donation of stamps will keep the fight going.
- D. Shannon will deliver a plaque to Susan Burleson, in honor of her service as the first chair of the Issues Committee.
- E. Let's help Councilmember Monica Wilson get re-elected! Please try to attend her fundraiser on **February 24th from 6:00-8:00pm** at Monica's Riverview, 1 Street Antioch, CA 94509.

Think about donating at:

- Gold - \$500
- Silver - \$250
- Bronze - \$100
- Attendee - \$50

Donations can be made either via the following

link: <https://donate.democracyengine.com/MonicaWilson/contribute>

Or via mail to:

Monica Wilson for Antioch 2022  
PO Box 9980, San Jose, CA 95157

FPPC# 1344190

Link to RSVP to fundraising event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/monica-wilson-for-antioch-2022-tickets-267952050797>

- F. Report out by Elected Officials in attendance.

**XVI Adjournment**