

# Minutes Of January 6, 2022

## General Meeting Marsh Creek Dems Club

### **I. Call to Order and Introduction**

The meeting was called to order by President Skinner at 2:02

President Skinner recognized elected officials and dignitaries who were at the meeting. They included:

Jovita Mendoza—Brentwood City Council  
Mark Foley—BART Board of Directors  
Brian Offedal - President of Fire Board at East Contra Costa Fire Protection District  
Sue Higgins – Oakley City Council  
Susannah Meyer – Brentwood City Council  
Yolanda Mendrek – Liberty Union SD Board Member  
Thuy DaoJensen – Brentwood SD Board Member  
Crystal Sawyer White – Antioch USD Board Member  
Lamar Thorpe – Antioch Mayor  
Monica Wilson – Antioch City Council

### **II. Minutes for October and November**

A motion to adopt the Minutes for October and November was made by Don Smith, seconded by Carolina Villaseca

Motion Passed Unanimously

### **III. Elections Committee (Don Smith stood in for the convalescing Valarie Thurston, Elections Committee Chair)**

A. Don announced that the following Members in Good Standing submitted intent to run for their respective offices, and noted that no members had submitted an “Intent for the Office” of Secretary:

1. President-Shannon Skinner
2. Vice President-Yolanda Mendrek
3. Treasurer-Thuy DaoJensen

It was noted that the position of Secretary will be filled IAW MCDC Bylaws, and that in the event of uncontested elections, MCDC Bylaws (Section VII H) states “in the absence of a contest, the election shall be by acclimation.”

B. Election by Acclimation:

A Motion to elect candidates by Acclimation was made by Don Smith, seconded by Carolina Villaseca.

Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Agenda Review**

A Motion to adopt the agenda as amended was made by Don Smith, Seconded by Harry Thurston.

Motion passed unanimously.

**V. Shannon Skinner—President**

President Skinner thanked attendees at the December meeting, which was an informal social affair with no business conducted, and reiterated the political reality in the United States that this upcoming election to control Congress is the most important of our lifetime.

She also noted, with gratitude, the large number of people who have renewed their membership well before the New Year and thanked all our members for their past efforts.

She especially acknowledged outgoing Vice President Harry Thurston and Secretary Barbara Coffman for their outstanding work and presented (electronically, of course) a plaque for their service.

**VI. Harry Thurston—Vice President**

A. Sunflower Alliance Petition. Harry reminded the membership, and encouraged them to sign, the Sunflower Alliance petition being sent to the County Supervisors and Planning Department to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing drilling, with protective provisions for those fossil fuel workers whose jobs could be impacted.

Organizers of the drilling project want to drill new wells to dump water taken from existing wells (water which well may be polluted with hydrocarbons pulled from existing wells) back into the aquifer.

Antioch City Council has passed two measures curtailing this activity, in large part due to the Alliance's efforts and we need to keep the pressure up with other City Fathers. Action also will be heard by the County Board of Supervisors that we do not want oil drilling in the East County. The petition may be found at <https://bit.ly/3D76XWQ> .

B. VP Thurston also presented plans for future meeting discussion topics

1. EC Mental Health Issues—National Alliance on Mental Issues (NAMI) of Contra Costa.
2. Human Trafficking in East County—Antioch City Council Member Monica Wilson
3. Update on the Enhancements to East County Fire Protection Capabilities

**VII. Presentations**

President Skinner announced today's presentations: Two different discussions, first Antioch Mayor Lamar Thorpe and City Council Monica Wilson will discuss Antioch Police Reform, Redistricting of Antioch City Council, and Antioch Recall Efforts. An unofficial summary of comments may be found attached to these Minutes.

#### **VIII. Swing Left Director--Doug McClelland**

Vote Fwd will be presenting their plants in February. We will be ramping up activities at that time.

#### **IX. Membership—Linda Smith and Doug McClelland**

A. 2021 Membership: 98 members; 92 Members in Good Standing, 6 Associate.

B. 2022 Membership: 28 members—February 19, 2022-February 18<sup>th</sup> 2023.

C. Way to join—Credit Card at <HTTPS://www.marshcreekdems.org/all-products> or VENMO Marshcreekdems (3416), or check sent to: (ask [MarshCreekDems@gmail.com](mailto:MarshCreekDems@gmail.com) for mailing address.)

D. Renewing members become Members in Good Standing and may vote as soon as their dues are paid.

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

#### **X. Voter Outreach—Linda Smith**

A. Brentwood Farmer's Market—We set up a table there most Saturdays to talk to voters about issues and sign people up for our newsletter. Volunteers are needed from 9-11.

B. Postcard/Letter Writing—We are waiting for the next opportunity.

#### **XI. Issues Committee—Bill Nusbaum**

Meetings are the first Saturday of the month at 11:30 AM. Next meeting will be February 5 via zoom.

#### **XII. Communications—Carolina Villaseca**

A. We post on Facebook important News and Calls to Action send any Call to Action to Carolina at [Marshcreekdems@gmail.com](mailto:Marshcreekdems@gmail.com) She asked that any pictures submitted for posting need to have captions provided.

B. Other updates re DCC: The DCC is in the process of redistricting, and Carolina needs a substitute for her position as District Director of Communications.

#### **XIII. Precinct Task Force—Carolina Villaseca**

- A. Precinct Captains are Carolina Villseca, Harry Thurston, Linda Smith, Thuy DaoJensen, Marcita Enis, Doug McClelland, Audrey Wright, Troy Christiansen, Jennifer Baker, and Gary Chambers.
- B. Precinct Captains are still needed to simply mass e-mail people in their assigned precinct. We do not have as much coverage as we would like.

**XIV. Treasurer's Report—Thuy DaoJensen**

**XV. For the Good of the Order**

- A. Zoom chats will resume January 22d at 10 AM, the fourth Saturday of each month.
- B. Reports from elected officials in attendance:

**Jovita Mendoza** noted that redistricting is still in progress, we need more affordable housing in Brentwood, and people who live in Summerset and Brentwood should alerted that hearings are being held and comments accepted regarding the new FOUR LANE Highway from Balfour Road all the way to I-205 in Tracy. Go to Cal Trans website to comment.

Mark Foley advised that BART district boundaries are being re-drawn.

Brian from Fire Control District noted the complete annexation and integration of our fire resources will take about 4 to 6 more months.

C. Don Smith noted that the Bylaws provide for nominations to unfilled offices (such as currently exist on our Secretary's position) may be made at a meeting and a vote to fill that vacancy may be made at the next meeting.

Shannon Skinner Moved to nominate Connie Harden for Secretary, Linda Smith seconded the nomination

Meeting was adjourned at 4:08.