

Libertarian Party of San Francisco

July 2021 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Starchild, chair

Jeff Yunes, vice chair

Richard Fast, secretary

Michael Edelstein, LPSF member

Alex Mills, LPSF member

Anonymous, non-voting

Lee Thomas, guest speaker, non-voting

ABSENT

Greg Michael, treasurer

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm on Saturday, July 10, 2021 at Alex Mills' residence and via Jitsi videoconference.

II. Introductions

Skipped, as everyone present knew each other.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Richard moved, Starchild seconded, to adopt the agenda. No objection. Passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Richard asked about approving the May 2021 minutes, in addition to the June 2021 minutes. Starchild said he took notes at the May meeting (Richard was absent), but he didn't have them to share. Richard would like to be able to approve them at some point, as minutes are generally posted on the LPSF website (county bylaws might even require that).

Richard moved to approve the June 2021 minutes. Anonymous objected, due to use of the name "Nomy" for "Anonymous". (Until Anonymous can somehow prove LPC membership, which entails a form of identity, s/he is not eligible to vote.) Anonymous said "Starchild the Second" was an acceptable alternative. Starchild objected to using "Starchild the Second" and also objected because he had corrections to the minutes but didn't have his notes with him at the time.

Richard rephrased the motion to say "approve the June 2021 minutes with the correction from "Nomy" to "Starchild the Second." Michael E. seconded. Jeff objected, saying he preferred changing "Nomy" to "Anonymous." Starchild advised that Jeff vote how he wants on this motion and depending on the result, propose a new motion. The vote was 2 yes, 2 no. Motion failed.

Jeff moved, Richard seconded, to approve the June 2021 minutes with a name change from "Nomy" to "Anonymous". 3 yes, 1 no. Motion passed.

If Starchild finds his notes on suggested corrections to the June 2021 minutes, he will bring them to the next meeting for possible amendments.

V. Activist Reports

Starchild: Went up to Placer County for the mask burning event at a vineyard hosted by a owner who got shut down by the government lockdowns. Decent turnout but no speakers, not much outreach potential, and not a lot of burning masks.

Richard: Attended the LP Alameda County meeting; their big project now is promoting the Jeff Hewitt for Governor campaign. Expressed the absence of any LP branding on Hewitt's campaign website, and the website is hard to find.

Michael E.: Live and Let Live group, started by lawyers. LiveAndLetLive.org has all the details. They already have groups all over the world, but they don't plan to officially launch until 2023. The group promotes the Non-Aggression Principle and libertarian philosophy, albeit outside of the political realm.

Jeff: Setting up at PorcFest, many diverse communities coexisting peacefully, including a nudist group ("body freedom" movement), a gun group, family groups. The family groups originally had complaints about how other people were expressing their freedom but after discussions, came around to supporting these other ways of freedom. Sign up for hubs. An on-going concern is: How libertarian is PorcFest? Concern about influx of conservative and Trump supporters. Impressed at the ideological consistency of most attendees, many of them self-identified as Ancap.

VI. Officer Reports

a) Chair - (skipped)

b) Vice Chair - (skipped)

c) Secretary - (skipped)

d) Treasurer - LPSF's funds total \$11,761.15 as of July 10, 2021.

VII. Guest Speaker - Lee Thomas. Democrat with pro-freedom leanings, running for mayor in 2022. Promoting AB 262. In 2017, he ran for city council in San Leandro and won. Wanted to build a fence; wasted land on a corner lot. 4 years on the Board of Zoning, applied for permit, qualified, but a neighbor objected. The neighbor complained that he got the permit simply by being a city councilmember. Lee faced a lot of criticism from constituents over the situation. He had run three times previously, but lost re-election by 300 votes. Born and raised in SF, attended USF for a B.A. org'l behavior, and M.A. in public policy.

AB 262 - Gov. Brown supported the bill. Problem: gave counties the option to adopt or not, and many did not (including SF). Lee Thomas worked to get it passed in Alameda County. "Cook Alliance" organization started in San Francisco, training cooks to cook from home. The organization is spread out, helping San Mateo, San Bernadino, and L.A. County. So many people impacted by Covid, looking for alternative ways to cook and sell food while forced out of work by the state lockdowns. People were cooking to survive; barbecuing to sell food.

Lee runs a home food company Gorilla-Q, works at Oakland Unified School District. He wants to tap into the parent market for support for various initiatives, including food freedom.

E-mail Lee Thomas at grilleeq@gmail.com

VIII. Unfinished Business

- a) LPSF newsletter (needs material and volunteers)

Richard asked about re-starting the LPSF newsletter. Starchild said he would like to do that, too, but we need a consistent supply of content. Richard volunteered to write content. There was general support.

IX. New Business

- a) SB 519 - would decriminalize most psychedelics (RF Motion to support)

Richard move, Jeff second, to endorse SB 519. 3 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. Passed.

Michael E. abstained over concern that the bill would create a regulatory system, increasing the size of government. Starchild and Richard countered that the regulation aspect doesn't go much further than what the law already says and that this bill, if passed, would be a major step forward towards finally ending the failed war on drugs.

Richard move, Jeff second, to endorse SB 357. 4 yes. Passed unanimously.

Anonymous asked if the bill only decriminalized loitering for sex work and not for any other reason. Starchild replied in the affirmative, "unfortunately." Future bills will need to address decrim for other reasons, but this bill at least is a good start.

b) Calling Jo supporters, invite to our next meeting

Starchild agreed to give Richard a portion of the Jo 2020 supporters contact list for the purpose of calling them and inviting them to the next LPSF meeting.

X. Good of the Order

Starchild: Anything else on the ballot aside from the recall and possible replacement?

Anonymous: There will be a City Attorney office vacancy.

Richard: Is it possible to whip up an LP candidate for that vacancy?

Starchild: Probably not. While it is an elected office, whoever runs probably needs to be a lawyer.

The time reached 5pm while discussion on gubernatorial candidates was still happening.

Richard moved, Starchild seconded, to extend time to 5:10pm. No objection. Passed unanimously.

There was further discussion of candidates running for governor. The consensus seemed to be that Hewitt not including the word Libertarian on his campaign website was a turn off. Starchild mentioned Nickolas Wildstar, who is running as a Republican but is a familiar face in LP circles. Richard mentioned Assemblyman Kevin Kiley (R-Sacramento), who Libertarians adore for being fierce against the government lockdown. Anonymous confirmed that Assemblyman Kiley is running and is planned to have an event in the Bay Area next week. While Starchild mentioned that the LPSF has traditionally done gubernatorial endorsements in the past, the consensus at this meeting was that the LPSF, if it was to make an endorsement, was not ready at this time to do so.

XI. Adjourn

The time reached 5:10pm and there was no further motion to extend time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

The next meeting will be the second Saturday in August, 2021, at Alex Mills' residence and via Jitsi.