

Carlsbad Democrats General Meeting Minutes July 26, 2023

Meeting was via zoom with 17 people in attendance.

Meeting Called to order @ 6:35 PM

Welcome President Chih-Wu opened the meeting welcoming all in attendance.

Land acknowledgment was presented by Stuart Gaiber.

Approval of Meeting Agenda approved as presented.

Approval of Meeting Minutes, June 28, 2023 approved as presented.

Statements by Elected Officials:

District 4 Carlsbad City Council Member Teresa Acosta asked people to follow her on social media: Instagram or Facebook. No city council meeting until August 22. There is a position on the Historical Preservation Commission which is open until August 14 and encourages interested people to apply. If interested in any boards or commissions individuals can reach out directly to city council representatives. Teresa directed people to go to the city council website where they could locate their city council representative and can see their email, telephone and when they have set office hours. She announced the launch for her re-election campaign will be Sunday September 10. Teresa has positions open for student internship credit: critical campaign volunteer and other is shadowing Teresa.

Carlsbad Unified School Board Member Kathy Rallings thanked Carlsbad Democrats Club Board Members along with others in the public who came out and supported the Carlsbad Unified School District Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Plan.

Statements by Board Members:

None at this time.

"Let's Go! San Diego" Campaign Kathy Rallings gave a presentation on July 16 at Pilgrim Unified Church of Christ to educate and train people for collecting petition signatures supporting a measure to fund transportation infrastructure to be placed on the 2024 ballot. The ballot measure will result in a half cent sales tax in San Diego County that will be used only for transit, jobs and traffic relief. The ballot initiative aims to increase funding for transit related projects throughout the county, make our existing roadways more sustainable, and reliable, as well as improving the quality, accessibility and affordability of existing transit. Kathy related issues related to public transit

for students that are not now frequent enough. Kathy indicated oftentimes transportation is ethnocentric to downtown San Diego but many aspects like potholes and train line to airport. Responding to the question Kathy indicated some commitments but prioritizations will happen after vote, with funds going to San Diego County Board of Supervisors and designated only for transportation with a public oversight committee. Kathy indicated that she is available to provide flyers and petitions if people put contact information in the chat).

Monthly Presentation:

"Gun Violence and Its Effect on Children" President Chih-Wu Chang introduced our speaker Mandy Fisher, the Local Group Leader for North County [Moms Demand Action](#). Mandy decided to take on a leadership role with Moms Demand Action after the Uvalde shooting, determining she could not read one more headline without taking action. Mandy is a community activist, who is raising her family and also has a full time job. Carlsbad Democrats Board Members: Stephanie Wells and Sharon Bodon also are Local Group Leaders. Kathy Rallings indicated that with parent Stephanie Wells' help , Carlsbad Unified School District passed a safe storage resolution and committed to the Sandy Hook Promise curriculum. [Mandy shared slides on gun violence, the effect it has on children and teens as well as gun violence prevention efforts.](#) Moms Demand Action is the groundwork team that puts into action the data that [Everytown USA](#) provides. The CDC reports that since 2020 firearms surpass motor vehicles as deaths in teens. In children 66% of deaths from gun violence and 33% of gun deaths from suicides. School shootings at specific San Diego County sites were shared (noting that sometimes gun episodes are related to events other than gun violence). The focus this coming year for North County Moms Demand Action is Vista because it has the highest homicide rates in North County. Children that are exposed to gun violence are more likely to not graduate, have lower grades and attendance as well as detrimental mental and physical health (because they are afraid to go outside). Specific laws that Moms Demand Action are working on to prevent gun violence include ending loopholes to gun sales, extreme risk laws (Red Flag Laws) (San Diego being used as a model for this statewide), secure gun storage and child access prevention and keeping guns out of domestic violence (close the boyfriend loop). Mandy also spoke to the second aspect of prevention: threat assessment programs, community schools that provide resources for students and families, social

emotional learning, mentoring and the safe passage program. She referenced the [Be SMART](#) as one of the programs they are trying to leverage at local schools this coming fall. Letters for secure storage will go out to parents but only once a year. Sharon Bodon indicated she will be participating at the Vista Police Dept at "Lights On" and sharing the Be Smart program this coming week.

Actions you can take: Partnering with other organizations, individuals and elected officials in Vista for school safety and safe storage. With identified school community leads will be connected to train the trainers. If interested in volunteering text "ready" 644-33 (can also download apps about upcoming actions and events). Can also see upcoming events by downloading the app by texting "app" 644-33. There are also caucuses where volunteers can meet and share information and concerns, Teresa Acosta indicated that in Carlsbad her and Priya Bhat-Patel are the only council members willing to work on gun safety issues. She noted elections matter and we need to vote for representatives willing to address these types of issues. Kathy Rallings indicated there is a "Progressive School board Members" group and she could facilitate Moms providing presentations to them. Vanessa Forsythe asked about other school districts in Carlsbad (Moms has a list of school districts with resolutions and programs). Mandy indicated the plan is to use the model that was developed in Carlsbad Unified School District for "train the trainer" programs and identifying champions at other sites. Stephanie indicated a number of other school districts now have secure storage resolutions and have adopted the Sandy Hook Promise program.

Priorities: Telling everyone you know that if they have guns they need to store them securely. Also normalizing safety in how individuals communicate with people about gun safety (not taking guns away). Shared that in tabling at communities responding to people emphasis was on gun safety. She indicated the importance of changing the narrative and reflecting shared values. Stephanie shared that individuals from school districts can request items to be on the board agenda (Chih-Wu resides in San Marcos School District - so can ask for secure gun storage notification). Thanks to our speaker Mandy Fisher for a very informative presentation.
(mandykfisher@gmail.com)

[Additional Announcements](#)

Stuart Gaiber member San Diego Co Behavioral Health Advisory Committee member shared a celebration event with a flyer for "staying sane and sober". Also naran (for reversing narcotic overdoses) distribution continues. He spoke in support of Terra Lawson-Remer as truly reflecting democratic principles. He indicated people are invited to canvas every Saturday for Congressman Mike Levin.

Superintendent Terra Lawson-Remer District 3 will kickoff her re-election campaign on September 9th at Kate Sessions Park 5115 Soledad Rd, San Diego.

Kathy Rallings indicated Fallbrook High School district "freedom fighter" board member was elected but resigned after one meeting and then someone else was appointed but recalled. There will be a special election in Fallbrook September 19 (ballots drop August 22) so asked if people know those residing there to get involved. Tauna Rodarte is running for the seat.

Diana Aguirre Carlsbad Dems Community Service Board Member indicated on August 26 10 AM - 5 PM the Council of Clubs Meeting is being held in San Diego. Because Carlsbad Democrats is a sponsor, any member of Carlsbad Dems can attend. There will be club information sessions and connecting to other County Democratic Clubs. Chih-Wu wants to have a table there.

Club t-shirts are available for purchase (Chih-Wu showed front and back with our messaging). He also showcased our Carlsbad Democrats banner (that Diana Aguirre arranged the making of).

There will be a fundraiser to re-elect Kathy Mendez as a Vista City Council Member on September 5.

[Emerge](#) this Saturday in Carlsbad will be having an introduction to its program that trains democratic women interested in running for elected office.

August 5th NAACP is dispersing backpacks at Mira Costa College in Oceanside. People can bring backpack supplies or donate through Amazon by going to the NAACP website.

Congressman Mike Levin is having a fundraiser August 18.

John Botoroff from CleanEarth4Kids indicated on August 14 starting at 10

am [26 bills that CleanEarth4Kids supports](#) will be presented in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Here is a link with directions for calling in for those able to phone in and share "me toos" indicating their support. He gave a thank you to CleanEarth4Kids new board member Vanessa Forsythe.

President Chih-Wu asked new attendees to introduce themselves. Eva Madigan introduced herself and lived in CA for 12 years and moved to La Costa recently with her fiancé. She is an automation engineer and does design storage and automation for warehouses as well as financial planning. She is a life-long Democrat and believes not getting the word out about all the good things Democrats do. She is hoping to get involved locally.

Nichole Rudden was born and raised in Carlsbad, recently moved back to District 1. Her children will attend the same Buena Vista school as her and her husband attended. She is also an educator. Nichole felt a need to get involved because of hearing the same people getting on the mike and speaking so much hate.

Final statement by Chih-Wu "we can do better."

[Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 until next meeting Wednesday, September 27, 2023 \(Note there will be no meeting in August\)](#)

Respectfully submitted by: Vanessa Forsythe Carlsbad Democrats Secretary