



**JUSTICE EQUITY DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
Standing Committee Convention Meeting
Co-Chairs Deepa Sherma & Steven Auclair
Thursday, October 19, 2023
6 -7 PM**

This meeting is held online via Zoom

MINUTES

i. Call to Order / Roll Call / Updates

- a. CDP Senior Advisor and Training Director Vincent Jones took the role
- b. Attendees: Steven Auclair, Deepa Sharma, Wendy Bloom, Tejinder Dhani, Shannon Ross, Marisol Rubio, Tracie Stafford, Annabella Acosta, Moises Diaz, Darwin Fishman, Julie Geary, Leah Herzberg, Uma Krishnan, Anish Mohanty, Denise Penn, Caroline Torosis, Alfred Twu, Excused Absences: Angela D Scott, Moina Shaiq
- c. Meeting called to order by Co-Chairs Deepa Sharma and Steven Auclair with a quorum of the body recognized at 6:05.

ii. Native Land Acknowledgement

- a. Co-Chair Deepa Sharma provided a land acknowledgment.

iii. Agenda Approval

- a. Motion to approve: Alfred Twu
- b. Second: Tracie Stafford
- c. Vote: Agenda unanimously approved by the body.

iv. Approval of Minutes

- a. Co-Chairs Steven Auclair and Deepa Sharma thanked and acknowledged Angela and Moises for taking notes from the last meeting.
- b. Motion to approve minutes: Denise Penn
- c. Second: Alfred Twu
- d. Vote: Agenda unanimously approved by the body.

v. Appointment of Notetakers

- a. Co-Chair Deepa Sharma is taking notes for this meeting.
- b. Shannon raised the possibility of exploring having a member of the body serve as the communications lead, who would serve as the designated notetaker for the body; Co-Chairs Steven and Deepa would discuss this offline.
- c. Caroline volunteered to serve as a notetaker for the upcoming convention meeting.

vi. Guests Speaker(s) –

- a. Co-Chairs Deepa and Steven called for a moment of silence to acknowledge world events and the loss of Israeli and Palestinian civilian lives in Israel and in Gaza.

- b. Co-Chair Steven raised the ideas that the leadership team has been discussing for convention programming. Co-Chair Deepa proposed the topic of having different communities impacted by the climate of hate speak about experiences, and would be a united front to send a message about how most segments of our Democratic coalition are experiencing hate, and how this is a concerted election strategy by the GOP to divide all of us. Co-Chair Deepa referenced President Biden's recent social media post regarding hate being connected.
- c. Solicitation of the body's thoughts on convention topic of discussion
 - i. Caroline – what topics could we be discussing at convention, and what are our goals?
Getting people to attend our meetings?
Furthering our Committee's goals?
 - ii. Uma – Suggested getting a speaker from Jewish Voices for Peace if we want to discuss Israel-Palestine conflict. Also provided a comment that we should send an email to delegates to alert them that they can attend JEDI meetings.
 - iii. Tracie – would like a topic with more immediacy regarding the primary coming up,

and understanding the complexity of the Israel/Palestine conflict.

- iv. Denise – would like to hear positive stories about how candidates have brought communities together.
- v. Darwin – interested in the topic of what justice would look like for Israelis and Palestinians.
- vi. Wendy – suggested that if we discuss Israel/Palestine conflict, do we have anyone who can manage that conversation? Perhaps we should be having a conversation regarding navigating trauma in multiple communities.
- vii. Alfred – asked a question regarding the length of time for our convention meeting (90 minutes).
- viii. Tracie – suggested that if discuss Israel/Palestine, that we do so with a trauma informed facilitator.
- ix. Vincent – mentioned that we would want to be mindful of the fact that JEDI's meetings are public and open to the press, and so conversations may not be safe.

- x. Wendy – suggested we have the ARO working group facilitators have a workshop about how to discuss difficult topics.
- xi. Shannon – mentioned that Israel/Palestine may be too difficult of a topic and may not feel like a safe environment for people.
- xii. Alfred – suggested we go back to the Co-Chairs’ initial suggestion about how the GOP is using hate to divide us.
- xiii. Julie – proposed as a possible topic the issue of extremism in local school boards.
- xiv. Darwin – also interested in extremism at the local level.
- xv. Denise – interested in a discussion at extremism at local school boards.
- xvi. Moises – also interested in exploring extremism and divisiveness.
- xvii. Alfred – echoed Julie’s proposal regarding extremism.
- xviii. Co-Chairs Deepa and Steven will review notes and keep the board informed regarding the convention meeting.

vii. JEDI Sub-Committees

- a. Co-Chair Deepa read off 4 topic areas and sought to do an initial polling of individuals interested in the four topics for committees.
- b. Topic 1: Support effort to gather demographic data about delegates and to assess their perception of how the party is advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. (interest: Alfred, Moises, Caroline)
- c. Topic 2: Participate in and help expand CADEM's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Discussion Series to delegates, Democratic Clubs, County Committees, and other Democratic entities. (Interest: Julie, Denise, TJ, Moises, Anish)
- d. Topic 3: Support County Committees in Development and Implementation of a Code of Conduct. (Interest: Wendy)
 - e. Topic 4: Assist CADEM Staff and officers in updating delegates about other California Democrats about programs, initiatives, and developments intended to advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. (Interest: Alfred, Wendy)

viii. Adjournment