

Village Independent Democrats

Minutes of January 9, 2014 Membership Meeting:

Tony opened with an announcement about Corey Johnson's inauguration on January 26. RSVP is required.

David Kruger updated everyone about the anti-fracking bus trip to Albany, the day before.

Arthur Schwartz was not present, so Keen Berger proceeded with her report. Tim Gay has resigned at the Board of Elections, to be replaced by Jamal Nelson, District Leader in Harlem. It is not clear whether Jamal will resign his district leader position. The transfer of 75 Morton Street from New York State to New York City for a middle school is still in the works.

Jonathan Geballe reported on the lawsuit brought by the GVSHP vs. NYU, in which Deborah Glick is involved. He said this was a huge victory for the neighborhood. The court determined that three strips of land that weren't officially designated parkland, but were used as parkland and had Parks Dept. signs on them, had, in effect, become parkland and therefore could not be used by NYU without permission of the New York State legislature. The University will still proceed with the Zipper Building and other parts of its plan that are not impacted directly by the court decision..

Tony announced the Gala date will be on Thursday, April 24.

Nat Johnson, the Technology Committee Chair, said the results of the canvas for a website coordinator will be announced at the next Executive Committee Meeting. The committee recommends staying with the current web-person.

Katherine Wolpe announced that Lynn Stewart had been pardoned and released on New Year's Eve, the result of her Stage 4 cancer. Ms. Stewart came to St. Marks Church the following Sunday to thank her supporters.

Marti Speranza announced the first meeting of the Community Affairs Committee will be on January 15 at 6:30 at Think Coffee. Anyone interested is invited to attend or contact Marti re future meetings. Deley Gazinelli asked what the object of the committee was, and Marti said that will be discussed at the upcoming meeting. In general, the objective will be to integrate community issues into the VID.

The VID forum, on the possible outcome of the two-state solution in Israel, was presented over by Kate Press, New York City Regional Director and Deputy Field Director of J Street.

This solution encompasses four principals, espoused by Secretary of State John Kerry:

- Borders based on pre-1967 lines with agreed-upon land swaps and security guarantees
- Evacuation of settlements outside Israel's future borders while the one in five settlers forced to relocate to make peace possible will be compensated
- Establishment of the Jewish neighborhoods of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the Palestinian neighborhoods as the capital of the future state of Palestine. Holy sites would be internationally protected and accessible to all
- Resolution of the Palestinian refugee issue through resettlement in the future state of Palestine or third countries.

There was a 20 minute presentation followed by 15 minutes of questions and 15 minutes of discussion.

Various other organizations were approached to attend , the Arab-American Institute, the Arab Association of NY, the American Jewish Committee, and AIPAC among them. Unfortunately, none could attend.

ELECTIONS

Linda Jacobson was unanimously re-elected as Treasurer by voice vote.

Kathy Slawinski was unanimously re-elected as Recording Secretary by voice vote.

Alex Meadows and Ed Yutkowitz were unanimously re-elected by voice vote.

There was a closed secret ballot to elect the new Executive Committee. Those members elected are:

Irene Kaufman
Anne Kjellberg
Nadine Hoffman
Celia Wu
Georgina Christ
Charles Stimson
Ellen Petersen-Lewis
Josh DuBoff

Jim Fouratt
Annette Zaner
Frieda Bradlow
Tom Connor
Alec Pruchnicki
Jackie Manuel
Ann Heaney

Jim Fouratt proposed a letter to be written to our elected officials re the Conservancy. Tony said to get him the letter and he will send it out, pending an okay by the Executive Committee.

New Business:

Ann Heaney spoke about future buses to Albany protesting fracking. Jim Fouratt spoke about the very important pre-K legislation pending. Sharon Woolums said she hopes the resolution to preserve small businesses will be brought to a vote at the City Council this year.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,

Kathy Slawinski