

May 1, 2014 Candidate's Forum

Zach Borodkin opened by announcing a major climate change summit featuring Bahn Ki Moon. 350.org will host a march and related events to be held probably on May 20 or 21. Check climate change.org for details (this is still in the planning stages).

Jim Fouratt announced an "Occupy the Pipeline" rally for Saturday, May 4. Tom Connor announced a demonstration at City Hall Wednesday to restore the sixth free meal for seniors.

Frieda Bradlow suggested the Executive Committee promote a resolution to support this at the next meeting.

Ed Yutkowitz, Chair of the Election Committee opened the forum by acknowledging the people and other clubs who participated in this event:

- Jeanne Wilcke, president of the DID
- Zella Jones, of the Lower Manhattan Democrats
- Allen Roskoff of the Jim Owles Liberal Democrats
- John Scot and Jean Grillo of the DPD
- Luke Henry of the Village Reformed Democrats
- Ashley Emerole of the Manhattan Young Democrats
- Dale Corvino of Greater NYC for Change

and, of course, a shout out for Tony Hoffman, who could not attend.

The first to speak were the candidates for NYS Democratic Committee:

Rachel Lavine started by talking about the functions of the State Committee and the need to address the renegade Independent Democrats Caucus. These candidates spoke for 5 minutes with 15 minutes for questions.

Allen Shulkin spoke about following Rachel's lead and his background. Allen recently attained the position of Deputy Chief Clerk of the Board of Elections.

Last to speak was John Quinn of the Lower East Side Democrats, who spoke of his background and again the need to confront the IDC.

Next to speak was Randy Credico, who is running a humorous campaign for Governor. All these subsequent candidates spoke for 10 minutes, with 15 minutes for questions. He addressed the fact that Cuomo is running alone because, he says, everyone is too scared to run against him. He also recommended "Sixty Spins around the Sun", a documentary.

Pete Grannis spoke next, representing Comptroller Tom DiNapoli.

He spoke of restoring integrity to the office after the blighted reign of Allan Hevesi.

Now Brad Hoylman introduced Keith Wright, speaking of the NYCHA real property review act and how Keith got it passed.

Keith Wright, Chair of the NYC Democrats, Assembly Member, and Co-Chair of the NYS Democratic Party, spoke of Andrew Cuomo's many progressive achievements like stopping the fingerprinting of those on public assistance, establishing a tenant protection unit of DHCR raising SCRIEE availability income and, of course, marriage equality. He was asked twice about raising taxes on the wealthy and ignored those questions. He also flatly stated that he would not address campaign reform.

Next up was Brad Hoylman, who said he would focus on 3 issues: government accountability, health issues, and LGBT rights. He is against defunding the Mooreland Commission, charter schools, and would like to ban outside income for legislators.

Deborah Glick spoke next. She spoke about 75 Morton, the expansion of speed cameras and the upstate problem of feral pigs. She was questioned by Alex Meadows about why she had come to his house after he had aggressively questioned her staff person about Pier 40 air rights.

Next, Deborah represented Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who could not attend. She spoke of his efforts to curb prescription drug abuse, oversight over non-profits and a series of election reforms, including early voting and same day registration.

Last but not least was Daniel Squadron, who spoke of his efforts, along with Schneiderman, to curb cellphone theft, a bill to ban 50 caliber weapons and a bill to raise the minimum wage to \$15. He said he considered the two issues of easier voting and campaign finance reform to be the most important. He proposed to expand the park conservancies--he wants a public-private partnership. He urged his constituents to call and email him.

This concluded the forum.