



VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

26 Perry Street

New York, NY 10014

General Membership Meeting Minutes - December 11, 2014

Tony Hoffmann opened the meeting with the statement that there was trouble on the #7 train and that Keen Berger couldn't make it. Arthur Schwartz never appeared.

Treasurer Linda Jacobson gave her report. From 1/2/2014, opening balance was \$15,902.87 and is now \$21,690.11.

Jonathan Geballe updated the Tenant's Clinic report, stating two tenants had come in last week. He had contacted an organization who expressed interest and may contribute an attorney to supplement the monthly clinic meetings.

Katharine Wolpe made an announcement about the 9th Precinct Christmas event and recommended making a contribution toward toys, books, etc. which are handed out at this event. Jonathan Geballe recommended a \$200 contribution, which was modified to \$100 to the 9th Precinct and \$100 to any other precincts which sponsor similar events. This passed overwhelmingly.

Tony announced that Vice President Nat Johnson would run the election for President because of the obvious conflict of interest. Nadine Hoffmann and Jim Fouratt were nominated and Jim won his choice to speak second.

Nadine spoke of her extensive history of activism in the club and fielded questions about the goals of the club, Pier 55 and attracting new members, among other topics. Jim objected to the order of the agenda.

When Jim spoke, he said he had never seen an election run like this one. He said he wanted to have a discussion about where the VID is going as a progressive club. He spoke about the progressive history of the club, with some criticisms. He said too many decisions were made at the Executive Committee level and declined to talk specifically about his activist history of the last ten years, instead asking members to google him. At the end of his speech, he declared he was not running for President, he wanted a debate about principles.

A vote was taken and ballots collected: the vote was 1 no endorsement, 8 for Jim and 33 for Nadine.

Nadine now introduced Timothy Wu, Law Professor at Columbia, former chair of media reform group Free Press, and regular contributor to the New Yorker. He also ran for Lieutenant Governor with Zephyr Teachout, who ran for Governor.

He spoke of how the issue of Net Neutrality has tapped into deeper currents of fairness and inequality in our society. He spoke of how the U.S. system uses private companies to provide services and is now run by big monopolies without public restraints, due to measures taken in the 60's and 70's. His talk was met with a rousing ovation.

Nadine now conducted the election of the three Vice Presidents. The nominees were Tom Connor, Irene Kaufman, Linda Jacobson, Katharine Wolpe and Jim Fouratt. Each candidate spoke, and while the ballots were being counted, Annette Zaner read her resolution on Climate Change. This was unanimously passed, and Nadine directed Ed Yutkowitz to distribute it. It is to be typed up, sent to local officials and the normal press list, as well as posted on the VID website.

The three new Vice Presidents were determined to be Irene Kaufman, Linda Jacobson and Katharine Wolpe. The meeting was adjourned.