



VILLAGE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

26 Perry Street

New York, NY 10014

Minutes, January 8, 2015

Nadine Hoffmann, new President, opened the meeting with a tribute to former President Tony Hoffmann, her husband. She introduced Ed Sullivan, former Assemblyman, representing Tish James.

He rose to say that Tish had written a tribute to Mario Cuomo, who proved that you could stand up for what's right and still win. He opposed the death penalty and supported the right to divorce over the Catholic church. Tish took him for a role model.

Next Nadine introduced Benjamin Yee, Vice President of Young Democrats of America, then Kate Linker, who announced that Moral Mondays would be coming to New York. On MLK Day, buses will be leaving from Brooklyn and Harlem for the Dream for Justice March, including many groups. She can be reached at kateplinker@gmail.com for details.

Keen Berger delivered the District Leader report; she brought up Pier 55. saying she had been asked to organize a forum around it and that maybe Corey Johnson would speak about it. Nadine said Corey was will but would be at the next meeting; instead Erik Bottcher would fill in.

Erik spoke of Corey's new staff, including himself and Molly Banks. He'd just started two days ago. He encouraged everyone to call at 917 744-9194 or email.

Next were the elections. It was unanimously determined that Frieda Bradlow and Ellen Peterson-Lewis would be co-Treasurers. Also, Kathy Slawinski was unanimously re-elected by voice vote. Three people ran for the two Corresponding Secretary positions: Ed Yutkowitz, Jim Fouratt, and Jonathan Geballe. After their presentations, Ed and Jonathan were elected by secret ballot.

For the fifteen members of the Executive Committee, Sharon Woolums, Tom Connor, Annette Zaner, Jim Fouratt, Alec Pruchnicki, Amy Seon, Nancy Shamban, Barbara Ruether, Nat Johnson, Ann Kjellberg and Rachel Lavine were submitted; more candidates can be brought up at the next meeting.

Now Rich Caccappolo, Chair of the Parks Committee of CB2, began the Pier 55 discussion. He said he was neither an advocate nor a critic, and explained that the project was the result of a donation and idea of Bary Diller and his wife, Diane von Furstenberg to build and operate for 20 years as a performing arts forum. As a result of its special combination of public and private funds, it does not require a ULURP. It does require the go-ahead from the Army Corps of Engineers and the DOD. Riverkeeper and the Sierra Club are demanding a more extensive environmental review. He invited anyone to review the Pier 55 website for the details. A spirited discussion ensued.

Kate Horton emphasized the need for a dialogue with the community. She said she's been working with Diller but they don't have all the answers--they need everybody's help. She said if the community didn't like it, they would change it.

Reservations were expressed about overdevelopment of the area, along with environmental concerns. The developmental process was criticized, and the funding was questioned. But others found it an exciting prospect. The general mood seemed to be "wait and see" pending further studies.

Kathy read her and Tom Connor's resolution criticizing Governor Cuomo for his cancellation of a health fair for poor New Yorkers. It was unanimously passed.

Jim Fouratt's resolution still had to be written and presented to the President.

The Letter of Sympathy re the two slain police officers was read by Nadine and will be sent to the 6th, 9th and 1st Precincts.

The Letter to Governor Cuomo thanking him for his position re hydro-fracking was read and passed unanimously.

The Statement on Decorum was tabled until the next meeting.

Under new business, suggestions were made about banning or not banning carriage horses. It will be debated at the next Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Kathy Slawinsky
Secretary