



Village Independent Democrats
26 Perry Street
New York, New York 10014

General Meeting Minutes, September 17, 2015

President Nadine Hoffmann made her Report, starting out by announcing that Tim Wu will be working for the NYS Attorney General, specializing in technology. The Executive Committee had voted to donate \$225 to the Cooper Square Committee for an ad in their journal, which needed approval from the membership. It was approved, 22 in favor with one abstention. She went over the election results: Terri Cude and Dennis Gault won by a large margin, and all six of our judicial delegates won. The Judicial Candidates Forum will be on Sunday, September 20, with 18 would-be judges.

She had received an email from Food and Water Watch regarding a resolution we had passed regarding the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in raising livestock and its role in causing antibiotic-resistant bacteria. We will be working with them on this topic. She also mentioned Jerry Nadler's Soiree and the upcoming VID Street Fair.

Keen Berger began the District Leader Report by speaking on the battle over the Elizabeth Street Garden, which may be destroyed by affordable housing to be built on the site. Margaret Chin was for the housing, with CB2 opting for a different site for this housing. Keen was impressed with the organized effort the "greens" made. She mentioned the victory of Terri Cude and Dennis Gault over the incumbents, whom she had endorsed. She also brought up two races, those of Donna Edwards and Sheldon Whitehouse, whom she thought were worthy candidates.

Next was the presentation on the Lenox Hill Emergency Center, made by Alex Hellinger, Executive Director and Wayne Kawadler, Director of Community Relations. They brought out many points like the number of patients treated (24, 996), the speed and quality of care involving the very latest high tech equipment, and the impact on the community. It is important to note that they are not an urgent care center and should only be used in critical cases except for traumatic heart problems or blocked airways. The FDNY is involved in determining where these cases will go.

Tony Hoffmann now discussed the Candles for Clemency vigil to be held Saturday the 26th. The emphasis will be on clemencies for longtime, elderly prisoners who are rehabilitated and need to go



home before death. Last year's vigil has had no success yet, but hopes are that the Governor is listening and something will happen.

Frieda Bradlow let everyone know that Annette Zaner will be having surgery on a broken femur. She had gone to the Lenox Hill Emergency Center for a quick diagnosis and will have surgery on Monday.

Eric Coler reported on his Young Voter Outreach project, held in Union Square and Washington Square Parks. He has some more strategies for reaching prospective voters, reaching out to political groups in colleges and supermarkets. He plans his next event for the VID Street Fair on October 3.

There was a discussion of primary dates and deadlines for registering to vote.

Nadine made a resolution in support of A617, requiring the labeling of GMO foods in New York, and addressed to Senators Schumer and Gillebrand. This was unanimously approved.

Tony now made the Campaign Committee Report and announced that Marti Speranza had organized ten local clubs to participate in a Presidential Forum, to feature representatives from each campaign and to be held November 1 at the School of Visual Arts Theater. A website is in the works and Allan Roskoff is trying to engage Errol Louis of NY1 to moderate.

Nadine will be working with Kate Linker on a resolution in support of Letitia James initiative to divest from Walmart, Dick's and other large gun sellers.

Sharon Woolums announced another Small Business Forum to be held September 30 in the Bronx. The Bronx leads all other boroughs in small business closures, with over 1,200 such closures. The SBJSA now has 23 sponsors--it needs 26 to be brought to a vote. When it is, it is expected to pass with 34-35 votes. The Council Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito, decides, however, if and when the bill comes to the floor for a vote. So far she has not said if this will happen. Gale Brewer's bill is still in the works. There was a discussion re logistics and home rule issues.

Now Bruce Farrands and two other representatives from UFCW Local 1500 made a presentation on Mrs. Green's new store in the Village. He had participated in a previous battle at a Mrs. Green's upstate, where when employees tried to organize they were fired. After six months of picketing and a court battle, the employees were brought back, with back pay. He advised that the Village employees were possibly intimidated and advised speaking to a manager when shopping there and advising him/her that what happened in Mt. Kisco doesn't play in the Village. He also mentioned a truck permanently parked in front of the store in which garbage is being stored, in possible violation of local laws. There is also a Brad Gonzalez on site who participated in the previous labor violations upstate. There was general agreement that local electeds should be notified and involved. Barbara Ruether volunteered to write a letter to this effect.



Under New Business, Jonathan Geballe lauded the new building for God's Love We Deliver, a worthy organization. Another member, Mary Petretti, urged attending the 11th Annual Cornelia Street Concert, a free event hosted by the Central Village Block Association.

The meeting was adjourned.