



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

General Membership Meeting – December 10, 2015

President Nadine Hoffmann opened by reporting that Brad Hoylman had been named 2015 Legislator of the Year by EPL/ Environmental Advocates for his work in standing up to polluters. VID was co-sponsor of a forum on affordable housing held at the Museum of the City of New York. Nadine also had praise for Jonathan Geballe and the great job he's been doing for the Tenant's Clinic along with Alberto Gonzalez from MFY.

The Executive Committee had voted to send a letter to Jerrold Nadler commending him for his stance on the refugee crisis, written by Jonathan and Ed Yutkowitz. VID also became part of the GMO Labeling Coalition agitating to let the public know about GMO foods. And the club is closely following the St. John's terminal housing project along with the GVSHP. The club has been allying with the CRDC, with whom they sponsored a forum on the \$15 minimum wage. There are plans in the works to again work with them on a forum about gun safety in March.

Keen Berger gave her report, stating how appalled she was at what was going on nationally in the elections, especially regarding Donald Trump. She admitted she couldn't do much except keep the pressure on. She had been at a rally at City Hall advocating for tolerance in this time of crisis for immigrants. Even though she was really angry, she was truly happy to be our District Leader in the West Village.

Next up, Jonathan spoke about supporting the Voter Empowerment Act, making voting more accessible in New York, a state with one of the lowest turnouts in the country. He went over some of the details of the act, emphasizing the need to mobilize. He is working with Erik Coler on this project.

Now Nadine solicited for help at the annual club Christmas party, held at Frieda Bradlow's house. Since Frieda has a new hip replacement, lots of help was needed. Also, new member Jim Yates was introduced.

Nadine turned the meeting over to VP Katharine Wolpe for the election of the club President, in which Nadine was the only candidate. Katharine read the election rules, which were passed unanimously. Nadine made a speech thanking the many members who had worked with her for the betterment of the club and local politics, and the many achievements of the club under her tenure.



Jonathan proposed making her the President through acclamation, since she was the only candidate, but Jim Fouratt challenged this, forcing a ballot election. Nadine was re-elected with a vote of 28 affirmative, 1 no endorsement and 1 unclear.

Nadine now read the rules for the Vice President election, which passed 12 to 11.

The four candidates were Linda Jacobson, Erik Coler, Barbara Ruether, and Tom Connor, who was proposed at the last minute by Jim. Each of the candidates spoke, and then various members spoke for them. Election results: out of 32 ballots, Erik won 29, Barbara 24, Linda 22, and Tom 15.

Now the endorsement process of the (National) Presidential candidate began. Adam Stolz, representing Martin O'Malley, and Sean Patrick Murphy, representing Bernie Sanders, were present. Hillary Clinton sent no representative.

Nadine read the rules, and various members began speaking for their candidate, with ballots being distributed and cast. The possibility of "no endorsement" was also discussed.

Now Deborah Glick appeared unexpectedly and spoke about the work she had been doing with Transportation Alternatives to redesign Fifth and Sixth Avenues, providing bike lanes and improvements to benefit pedestrians and slow traffic. The changes already done to other streets like Eighth and Ninth Avenues--also First and Second Avenues--have already reduced traffic accidents dramatically. There was a small discussion regarding these improvements and the possibility of others. Deborah said her goal was consistency.

Now the ballots were announced: Hillary 12, Bernie 12, and no endorsement 7. Since no position had a clear majority, another ballot was necessary.

The balloting was repeated, and the new results were Hillary 10, Bernie 12 and no endorsement 10. Since again there was no clear majority, the club position is "no endorsement"--at least for now.

Under New Business, Jim proposed the club call on the DNC to hold three or more additional debates to educate Democratic voters on the real differences between the candidates, and Kathy Slawinski contributed that no sanctions should apply to candidates who choose to debate outside the DNC plan. This was passed, 20 in favor, 4 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned.