



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

General Membership Meeting Minutes March 10, 2016

President Nadine Hoffmann opened the meeting by welcoming Congressman Jerry Nadler, who is up for reelection. He soon left, as he could not speak at the meeting. She then reported on the March 1 Women's Issues forum at the Red Room, participated in by VID, DID, CODA, Manhattan Young Dems, and Councilwoman Rosie Mendez. She also mentioned the Candidates Forum, sponsored by VID, DID, and VRDC. There had also been a forum on gun violence the day before, sponsored by the VID and VRDC, and featuring Keith Wright, Richard Aborn, Leah Gunn Barrett, and Scott Stringer, among others. And she reminded the members about the upcoming Candidates Night on April 7.

Nadine had been asked by Deley Gazinelli to sign on to a letter regarding Medicaid and Medicare re HIV and could not understand it. This issue was tabled because the issues were unclear.

District Leader Keen Berger began her report by talking about campaigns in other states and candidates she was supporting like Donna Edwards, Catherine Cortez Masto, Russ Feingold and Maggie Hassan. She mentioned that because Baruch Middle School was losing students, it may have to accept a charter school on its premises.

Nadine commended Erik Coler for meeting with Assemblyman Brian Kavanaugh on the topic of early voting--the Assemblyman thinks Republicans are in agreement on this issue and it may pass in the Assembly and State Senate. Jonathan Geballe explained what's involved in getting this legislation passed.

Tony Hoffmann spoke about the upcoming Congressional primary on June 28 and the necessity for petitioning. A Campaign Breakfast, paid for by Congressman Nadler, would take place at the clubhouse on Saturday.

Nat Johnson updated everyone on the environment--on February 29, Governor Cuomo sent a letter to FERC about the Algonquin Pipeline, requesting this dangerous project be suspended until a full environmental study is completed. Nat described a circular firing squad involving FERC, NRC, DEC, and the EPA diffusing the blame by saying the others had approved the project. There was a discussion about Int. 446, a bill introduced to prevent fracking and its byproducts from traveling through the city--26 City Council members were needed to sponsor



the bill. (Pipelines leak methane at much higher rates than previously understood, and methane is much more dangerous to the environment than carbon dioxide.)

FERC had not responded to the Governor' s letter, so Keen proposed sending a statement to the Villager and Cuomo's office, which was unanimously approved. It was also proposed to send letters to Corey Johnson and Rosie Mendez (copied to the Villager) thanking them for supporting the initiative to suppress fracking. This too was unanimously passed.

Tom Connor, a rent-controlled tenant who is a chair on the advisory board of Greenwich House, a senior center, read a letter to Governor Cuomo regarding the unfairness of the rent raises to rent-controlled tenants, the majority of whom are senior women. Rachel Lavine, a State Committee Representative, asked about SCRIEE having a role. It was proposed that Nadine, Rachel and Tom meet to collaborate on the letter, and this was unanimously passed.

Next Jen Hoppe updated us on the Gala, set to take place on Thursday, April 28 at the newly renovated Tio Pepe. The Committee is soliciting sponsors, and invites are to go out next week. Honorees will be Ben Yee, former leader of the Manhattan Young Dems and current VP of the National Young Dems, someone (as yet undecided) from the Cooper Square Committee (addressing homelessness), and Soffiyah Elijah, Executive Director of the Correctional Association of NY (regarding prisoner's rights). Nadine said the committee had wanted to honor Susan Lerner of Common Cause, but she was unavailable.

Nadine now read the VID rules for endorsement of political candidates, and the endorsements were under way. After much discussion--

Jerry Nadler was unanimously endorsed by acclamation.

Carolyn Maloney was endorsed by 23 in favor, with 3 no endorsement votes and one invalid ballot.

Chuck Schumer was endorsed by 19 in favor and 7 no endorsements.

Hillary received 19 votes, Bernie received 9 votes and one no endorsement. Therefore, Hillary won VID's endorsement.

The meeting was adjourned.