



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

Minutes for July 14 Membership Meeting

President Nadine Hoffmann opened the meeting by thanking everyone for the great job they did in petitioning. Alison Greenberg is putting together an interesting Health Forum, rescheduled for the September meeting. The VID put together their first official filing under the new tax rules. Thanks to member David Saperstein, we're up to date. Frieda Bradlow will be home from Village Care Wednesday.

Nadine then segued to the March for a Clean Energy Revolution to be held on the eve of the Democratic convention--our resident environmentalists, Anne Heaney and Nathaniel Johnson, have signed up and are soliciting for more volunteers.

The updated clubhouse looks great--the Executive Committee gave permission to reimburse the subtenant \$350 for paint supplies and an additional \$500 for framing the club's historical posters. The windows are in bad shape and the radiators need work, so more negotiations are underway.

Renee Feinberg, fundraising for Hillary, is a docent for the Brooklyn Museum, and is working on getting the club a discount. Greater NYC for Change will be honoring State Senator Brad Hoylman at a free July 18 meet and greet at PS 450.

District Leader Keen Berger was not present, but Nadine informed us that 75 Morton has a new principal, very progressive, formerly of PS 234, also middle school 234, and 219 in Chinatown.

President Hoffmann was very disappointed that even though we and others had lobbied against the law banning individual states from labeling GMOs, the US Senate had passed this onerous bill, to be sent to the President to sign or veto. Anne Heaney and Nat Johnson said the bill was considered a compromise, using a barcode to identify GMOs, requiring a smartphone and some technical expertise. A resolution was made to send a letter to President Obama asking him to veto this "compromise" and was passed unanimously.

Tony Hoffmann now made the Campaign Committee Report, opening with the news that the club had been told we owed \$21,000 to the government due to a filing typo! We have to learn how to amend...



Campaign buses to Pennsylvania for Hillary will begin on Saturday, September 17, and every Saturday until the election, leaving from Union Square at 8 am and returning at 9 pm. There will be a \$15 charge per person with some other fundraising involving Keen, Ed Yutkowitz and Erik Coler. Campaign chair RJ Jordan did a fabulous job on the Glick campaign, with great help from Erik, acquiring 1500 signatures--500 was the minimum required, so Deborah will be on the ballot. Arthur Schwartz has declined to run, but the rumor is Jim Fouratt will step in. There was a discussion about Arthur's decision. Nadler won his campaign with 88-90% of the vote in some districts. Tony gave many thanks to Erik and Ed.

Tom Connor asked about Brad Hoylman's campaign--he has a challenger named Steve Roberts, a Reform Rabbi.

Now Nadine introduced Doug Kellner, Co-Chair, NYS Board of Elections. He spoke about fixing the NYC Board of Elections, improving voting nationwide, and campaign finance reform--public financing.

He began by speaking of the importance of the clubs, and said VID had been historically very good at getting out the vote. He explained the local BOE structure and the importance of the Dems. Cuomo unilaterally imposed online voter registration and promotes early voting, in which the Republicans are not interested. Doug said combining Primary elections will happen if we get a Democratic Senate, but he does not advocate online voting which is vulnerable to hacking and fraud.

He talked about public financing of elections--which the Governor and Dems in the Assembly support. Providing matching funds in the state would cost about \$250 million a year. The state loses much more --ten to fifty times more under the current system. He spoke of the pernicious effects of Citizens United on elections, and talked about the LLC loophole and how Republicans are not interested in fixing it. He talked of the very high NYS campaign contribution limits, and the importance of closing the old committee loophole, allowing a candidate who is no longer running, retired, or convicted of a crime to not be required to return funds.

He spoke of the nuts and bolts of local voting, the 30 minute rule requiring city and county boards to allow people to vote within 30 minutes of entering the polls; the city will be no where near this time for the November election. There's a need for five or six poll books at each site and more staffing.

At this point, Assemblyman Deborah Glick entered and made a few remarks. She thanked everyone, especially Tony, Nadine, Erik and Katharine Wolpe, and said she was very appreciative of Annette Zaner's letter to the Villager promoting her. She agreed that internet voting would be a horrible mistake.



Tony updated everyone on the Candles for Clemency campaign. Allen Roskoff of the Jim Owles Club had gotten the Governor's attorney to come up and say hello with his entourage when they visited Judith Clark at Bedford Hills, but they only had a one or two minute exchange with no change in clemencies. A new vigil is scheduled for September 10.

Nadine had no idea what was going on in the State Committee race, but she thought our slate was pretty secure.

Under New Business, Nat gave the club some good news--the Port Ambrose LNG Project was cancelled by the Governor in favor of a wind farm. VID had been very helpful in accomplishing this. The Bureau of Oceanic Energy Management is having meetings and taking comments for the wind farm--the process is beginning. This got enthusiastic applause.

John Bredin now spoke about an event he attended the night before, where GVSHP put a plaque on Jean Michel Basquiat's old studio on Great Jones Street. Frank Nervo was there, who is working with Richard Dreyfuss on the Dreyfuss Civics Initiative, instituted to reestablish the teaching of civics in public schools and teach critical thinking.

The meeting was adjourned.