



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

**General Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2017**

President Erik Coler started the meeting with something he called, "unusual--it will either go horribly wrong or go very well." He then asked the members what they wanted to see in their community, and he got a long list of suggestions, from tax issues, civil rights protections, parks, after school programs, to a new bathroom in the Jefferson Market Library. Also mentioned were bike racks, broken sidewalks, potholes, "curb cut" ramps, less stop and frisk, noisy clubs, mental health care, more mom and pop stores and small business in general. Also traffic congestion, lack of coordination at construction sites, participatory budgeting, and fair wages for service employees, eliminating tipping.

There was a big discussion about the coming work on the L train, and how that would affect the neighborhood, along with the need for more benches, elevators and escalators in the MTA.

District Leader Keen Berger had given a quick report at 6:30, but then had to leave, so Erik brought us up to speed on the Gala, which went well, and the Candidates Night, which was fantastic. Lois Rakoff has reached out to the Washington Square Conservancy for a community service cleanup for August or July. There will be a Trivia Night at Amity Hall next Wednesday.

In an error, Erik had left off Scott Stringer and the civil court candidate. Tony Hoffmann made a motion for the Executive Committee to vote on these candidates. They are unopposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

Laurie Hardjowirogo now reported on the efforts being made in CD 19 to defeat John Faso. A Town Hall was held, which John Patrick Maloney attended and Faso "had a conflict". Over five hundred people showed up, along with members of the activist group Indivisible. More of these will be held, with Kirsten Gillebrand, Chris Murphy, and others to participate. The object is to raise money and attract volunteers to organize the campaign. The next meeting for the Voter Reform Committee will be held on Saturday.

Now it was Nat Johnson's turn, for the Environmental Committee. The CB2 curbside composting resolution was approved. In the Manhattan SWAB meeting, Deputy Commissioner Bridget Anderson had set goals for recycling, with zero waste going to landfills by 2030. Single stream recycling is targeted for 2020, but organic compost is contaminated with plastic bags and must be separated. For every ten buildings that commit to curbside composting, the city will send a truck for pickup. And StuyTown is committing to organic recycling.



On July 25, there will be a Food Waste Fair at the Brooklyn Expo Center. The next meeting for the Committee will be on Tuesday.

Nadine Hoffman now spoke about the Gala, which grossed \$37,170.00, with over 150 attendees. Dr. Alec Pruchnicki donated \$150 by selling 15 copies of his book for \$10 each and donating the money. The food was more varied and better than in years past. Among the honorees were three lawyers who went to JFK airport the day of the Muslim ban to represent immigrants pro bono. The program had been designed by Nadine's niece, gratis.

Tony and Laurie spoke of the Candidate's Night, which got great press. Carlina Rivera will have an opening on Saturday.

Petitioning starts June 6, with a kickoff breakfast June 10. There will be an email reminder. There was a discussion about district boundaries and petitioning.

Now Erik spoke of his efforts on the Affordable Housing Committee. In early June, he will be going to buildings where units have been illegally destabilized, and advise them to sign onto a lawsuit on a contingency basis.

The Endorsement Votes:

Mayor

DeBlasio 21
Gangi 3
no endorsement 6

Public Advocate

Letitia James 28
David Eisenbach 1

Manhattan Borough President

Gale Brewer 27
Sharon Woolums 1
no endorsement 1

District Attorney

no endorsement 26
Cy Vance 2
Arthur Schwartz 1

Arthur Schwartz arrived late because his daughter had been inducted into the Junior Honor Society. He spoke of the closing of Beth Israel and the feasibility of single-payer health care in



New York State. There will be a demonstration on June 20 re Beth Israel; he asked VID to become part of the movement to save BI.

He ended with an explanation of why he gave his petitions to Jim Fouratt during the campaign against Deborah Glick, a controversial move.

Under New Business, Katharine Wolpe brought up several items --an article on BI in the Villager, along with a letter from Annette Zaner. Theresa Hummel has a photography exhibit in Gale Brewer's office. There will be a community teach-in for right to counsel for tenants on Monday, May 22. And on May 17, there will be a meeting of Privacy Board Advocates and a rally outside Governor Cuomo's Manhattan office.

John Bredin mentioned the film, "The Lost Village", which he and Sharon were involved in producing, won Best Picture in two film festivals. There will be a community screening on June 5 in the Jefferson Market Library.

Tom Connor mentioned Keith Wright's appearance at the next Executive Committee meeting.

And Jen Hoppe reminded everyone of the fundraising deadline for the City Council candidates.

The meeting was adjourned.