



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

## **General Meeting Minutes December 14, 2017**

President Erik Coler opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and noting the fantastic win in Alabama. He thanked Nadine Hoffmann and Frieda Bradlow for the success of the holiday party.

Keen Berger started her District Leader Report by saying she never watches TV but she was mesmerized for hours on Tuesday, tracking the win of Doug Jones over Roy Moore. She especially loved the victory speech, in which Jones thanked African Americans, Latinos, gays, and Jews. Unfortunately, two thirds of white women voted for Moore--but she congratulated the campaign for winning in the old-fashioned way, with a good candidate, good issues, and shoe leather, door-knocking, phone banks, etc. She compared it to what VID does for its candidates,

Members chimed in with how the ACLU drove the black vote, Obama robocalls, voter suppression, etc. The turnout and vote was higher than for Obama.

Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator, was next with an earnest discussion about the IDC, the renegade Democratic faction in the Senate, and efforts to get them back in the mainstream Dem fold. Questions and suggestions were fielded from members.

Now Tony Hoffmann delineated the rules for the election of VID President and three Vice Presidents. Since there was only one candidate for President and three for the three VP slots, it was proposed that the Secretary cast one unanimous vote for these positions. This was passed, and Erik Coler for President, and Erik Bottcher, Jen Hoppe, and Laurie Hardjowirogo were duly elected as Vice Presidents.

Laurie gave the Voter Reform Committee Report by first noting there will be a phone bank for DC 19, John Faso's district, aimed at getting voters with a second home upstate to re-register there for the upcoming election. The committee had met with Julian Spector from AG Schneiderman's office, about petitioning for DACA. Irene Kaufman noted that the AG will also write a letter supporting net neutrality, which she will bring to the next Executive Committee meeting. Jim Fouratt reminded the club that there was a Net Neutrality conference that night.

Nat Johnson gave the Environmental Committee Report by stressing what was learned at the December 4 Future of Renewable Energy Forum. The committee learned from this that nuclear power is being touted as necessary for now or natural gas will be needed, utility companies and other market actors are viewed as necessary in creating renewable energy projects, and other projects are in this area like cladding of buildings and geothermal generation.



Future follow-ups for the committee involve the importance of the NYS Department of Public Service, which sets the costs for consumers; need for political strategies to provide resources for poor and stressed communities: how the US Senate bill will throttle renewable energy by scaling back incentives and subsidizing oil and gas; and the need for more education on REV projects. The spring programs include engaging the Sanitation Department on composting in the Village, following up on plastic bags, and the bioswale project. Nat thanked Erik Bottcher for the work he did on the December 4 Forum.

Tony of the Campaign Committee spoke of visiting Judith Clark in prison a few days before. Even though she was granted a commutation by Governor Cuomo, the parole board refused parole. When it was referred to the entire parole board, they also refused on the basis that the community was opposed to it and the heinousness of the crime, so Judith has employed a white glove law firm to sue the state on the basis of her rehabilitation--she has been a model prisoner--and the idea that she will not commit any further crimes. Hopefully she will be out in six months.

Erik Coler of Affordable Housing recapped the year's achievements by saying this year 42 units had been re-stabilized and he was hoping next year to add 90 more. Chloe Chik recounted staging many demonstrations in Washington Square Park and there would be another protest around January 27--also pushing for the DREAM Act through NY1.org.

Nadine Hoffmann thanked everyone for attending the Holiday Party--she thought as many as 200 people may have attended. Tom DiNapoli, State Comptroller, attended as well.

Carlina Rivera, our new City Council member, gave a short speech in which she thanked the VID for its incredible support in her campaign. She won the Primary with 60% of the vote, the General with 80%. She will be taking over Rosie Mendez's office for the transition.

Tony now explained the new revised constitutional amendment and the process involved. After reading the amendment, it passed overwhelmingly with one opposed.

Erik Coler now read the Beth Israel Resolution. Tony thanked Zella Jones, Marlene Nadle, Judy Wessler, Susan Gottesman, Alec Pruchnicki, Barbara Ruether, Jim Yates, and Jonathan Geballe. After some discussion, in which some errors were discovered, a proposal was made to send the resolution back to committee. This was passed unanimously.

In New Business--

Alec announced Music at St. Veronica's, Saturday, December 23, a free concert.

Kathy Slawinski announced "Bulldozer: The Ballad of Robert Moses", playing at the Theater at St. Clement's on 46th Street through January 6.

Jim Fouratt announced low income



senior housing to be built at the Elizabeth Street Garden site--135 units, 31 for the homeless. Habitat for Humanity will be participating with a green building. Margaret Chin stood up for it and DeBlasio committed to it.

And lastly, Deb Sherman and Laurie presented Erik Coler with Donald Trump toilet paper, which he promised he would install in the clubhouse.

The meeting was adjourned.