



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

General Meeting Minutes April 12, 2018

President Erik Coler opened the meeting with the unanimous adoption of the Agenda. Next he announced three new committees: Gun Reform, chaired by Deb Sherman and Allison Stowell, Communications, chaired by Sara Kimbell, and the County Democrats Reform Committee, with Elissa Stein and Irene Kaufman. The Executive Committee had agreed to make Annette Zaner VID member for life--and the membership unanimously agreed.

In her District Leader Report, Keen Berger referred to the hierarchy of the city Democrats, and how all levels needed reform. She then announced that Jeanne Wilcke of DID had been named by AD66 to be on the Rules Committee of the County Dems, and introduced her to speak.

Jeanne reported on the Rules Committee and how the process for reform was very laborious and detailed, with the minutes for the March meeting running to 17 pages! There was plenty of fighting on the grassroots level, with many complaints not acknowledged by the County Committee, no unified email list for notifications, etc. The final draft of the minutes with rules changes will be voted on this week. The Ethics Committee was divided on not allowing the County Leader to be a lobbyist--the vote was no, 9-3, based on language problems. But this is a conflict of interest, and there may be more discussion.

Everyone agreed that the screening panel for judges should be comprised of Democrats registered in NYC. This triggered a small discussion about who was previously on the panel, and how do incumbent judges who are challenged get a fair hearing. In the case of inter-boro voting, if a candidate's district covers two or more boroughs, there must be a meeting with uniform rules and procedures set. If the candidate wins the majority, the votes will count as a bloc. Currently the County Chair has the discretion to support another candidate.

Deborah Glick rose to speak--and was unanimously endorsed. (Jim Yates recused himself from all votes.) She spoke of her efforts to take abortion protections out of the penal code and put into health care federal law, which failed. She announced a shredding event at Sirovich Senior Center on May 1. Money for students economically and educationally disadvantaged was restored in the



budget, along with support for child care centers. There was a \$5 M matching grant for no-kill animal shelters. There was no support in the Senate for early voting. There is hope for a ban on fracking and money for reproductive health care in November, but we need a Democratic Senate.

Brad Hoylman was unanimously endorsed, but was not present. Liz Kreuger will be addressed next meeting.

The Resolution on the L Train was read, and changes were discussed. Elissa Stein discussed the 14th Street Coalition and the Arthur Schwartz lawsuit, amendments were made, and the resolution passed, with one no vote and four abstentions.

Now Alison Greenberg read her Resolution regarding the proposed rule changes at the LPC and calling for resignation of the chair and input from the public and preservation experts on any rule changes. After discussion, the resolution passed overwhelmingly with one no vote and one abstention.

Nadine Hoffmann and Lois Rakoff now reported on the upcoming Gala, with adjustments to lighting and sound, and the same menu. Honorees will be Ravi Ragbir of the New Sanctuary Coalition, Gays Against Guns, and Nadine.

Next, Nat Johnson reported on the Environmental Committee's focus on composting, mentioning Tal Zaken's previous presentation on organic composting. He toured the Simms Recycling Center in Brooklyn and will show a power point presentation. Other concerns were the plastic bag task force, styrofoam and plastic straws. Nat set up a future meeting with the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board.

Laurie Hardjowirogo reported on the Voter Reform Committee's efforts to defeat John Faso in D19. Sara Kimbell sent 150 post cards for Conor Lamb. There will be a phone bank for the WFP on April 15, and Corey Johnson will host a Day of Action to get Shelley Mayer elected on April 22. Schneiderman's office is also organizing in Mamaroneck, and 400 people showed for the Schneiderman event Against Trump.

There was no Affordable Housing Report, but Deb Sherman and Allison Stowell passed out a summary of recent gun legislation for the Gun Reform Committee. There will be an April 20 event commemorating Columbine and a meeting at the clubhouse on April 30.

Tony Hoffmann and Laurie reported next on the Campaign Committee. They have collected about 1,000 signatures--660 for Nadler, and 330 for Maloney. They discussed the number of signatures needed --at least 1,250. And they noted that petitioning for local races starts June 5 for local races. There was a general discussion about these.



Erik now announced the Judicial Delegate Election. There was a discussion about whether to change the slate, sharing with VRDC and DID. It was agreed not to at this time, but change was possible next year. The candidates were Jen Hoppe (19), Allison Stowell (28), Deb Sherman (16), and Grace Price (3). The top vote getters were Delegates, and the others were Alternates.

Under New Business:

Katharine Wolpe mentioned a March to Trump Tower, which Erik promised to put on the website.

Anne Heaney put in a word for participatory budgeting.

Grace Price mentioned the sentencing on Monday of a man prosecuted for a parody by Cy Vance.

Erik brought up possibly not taking August off as customary for VID. Jen Hoppe suggested possibly not taking any month off. Erik will bring it to the Executive Committee.

Katharine Wolpe announced the passing of Stanley Geller on April 6 at the age of 98. He was a former President of VID.

The meeting was adjourned.

