



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

General Meeting Minutes May 10, 2018

President Erik Coler opened the meeting with the adoption of the agenda, which was unanimous.

Since Candidate Brian Kavanaugh was due to another event, he made his presentation early. He was eventually endorsed, 27 for with 12 no endorse votes. There was some controversy because of the way he was chosen for his seat, causing Jon Verbalis to stipulate that if he were not endorsed, the reason should be conveyed to him, but this was unnecessary.

Erik continued the meeting by congratulating everyone for the great job done on the Candidates Forum on Monday. In an unrelated vein, he noted that the next membership meeting will not be held at the usual venue, and he will keep us posted. He also wanted permission for the Executive Committee to nominate a backup judicial delegate. This passed unanimously.

Keen Berger gave an abbreviated District Leader Report, stating her sadness and anger over the Schneiderman debacle. She told of an encounter with an uninformed neighbor, contrasting him with the VID membership with their many opinions. She said it's good to have a debate!

Nat Johnson also gave a quick Environmental Committee Report, just stating that the next meeting would be May 23 to continue work on the new initiatives, including the plastic bag bill and a to-do list.

Erik next read Laurie Hardjowirogo's Voter Reform Committee Report. (Laurie wasn't present.) Five thousand GOTV postcards were mailed and phone banks were activated to help the IDC challengers. Their next meeting is Saturday.

Deb Sherman and Allison Stowell now spoke about the Gun Reform Committee, citing the Youth Over Guns march on June 2. Their top priority is passing the Extreme Risk Protection Order, with the help of Brian Kavanaugh. In order to put more pressure on the Governor, they would like to distribute



3,000 postcards in defense of the bill, to pass out at the march. Ed Yutkowitz will be writing a Times editorial on the bill and gun safety.

For the Campaign Committee, Tony Hoffmann announced there would be a joint meeting of this committee and the Voter Reform Committee at the clubhouse on Saturday. Petitioning starts June 5, and he welcomed people to the Petitioning Breakfast, with free bagels and cream cheese.

Next were Lois Rakoff and Nadine Hoffmann for the Gala Committee. The Gala was a huge success, with Nadine's speech for Ravi Ragbir the highlight. Nadine thanked everyone and said she was still playing it back in her head! Tony said the Gala made \$26,000 and everyone was paid up 100%, which was unusual.

Arthur Schwartz, male District Leader asked to make a report, but was interrupted by Erik because of a previous conversation where Arthur had not given Erik appropriate notice.

Now Erik read the endorsement rules, then asked for a motion to allow the Executive Committee to endorse for the AG position in the fall. After discussion, David Siffert made the motion and it passed with 2 nays and 3 abstentions.

Frank Nervo, former VID member and President, made his presentation for the 1st Judicial District. He was endorsed, 38 votes to 2 no endorses.

Comptroller Tom Dinapoli was endorsed 35 to 2 no endorses. He had spoken previously at the Forum, and was not present.

Liz Krueger, candidate for the 28th District State Senate seat, was not present but was endorsed 36 to 3 no endorses.

For the 2nd Judicial District, three candidates were present, Wendy Li, Rob Rosenthal, and Grace Park, but Grace withdrew to run in the County-wide race, deferring to Rosenthal. Rosenthal eventually won, with 25 for, 14 no endorses and one recusal.

The field for County-wide Civil Court was large, with seven candidates. The winners were Grace Park, with 26 votes and Shah Ally, with 28 votes. Elissa Kates and Nicholas Moynes took themselves out of the running. The rest were: Eric Gray, with 11 votes, Elsa Hampton, with 5 votes, and Ariel Chessler with 7 votes.

Now it was time for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor positions. A motion was made that no one should speak more than once, and this passed unanimously. The candidates (except for Cuomo) had appeared at the Forum, so they did not present again. Cynthia Nixon got the Governor



endorsement, with 20 for and 15 no endorsements. Cuomo got 3 votes. For LG, Kathy Hochul got it with 20 for and 4 no endorses. Jumaane Williams got 4 votes.

New Business:

Lois Rakoff reminded us that the Washington Square Music Festival will take place every Tuesday in June, and it is free. Also, the Greenwich House Music School will hold a fundraiser on May 20 for \$40 for those under 40 and \$75 for those older.

Alison Greenberg spoke of her discomfort with Schneiderman and advocated for women to be appointed from within. She suggested writing to Deborah Glick to urge her to leave Barbara Underwood in charge at the AG office.

Erik addressed the situation with Arthur Schwartz, saying he was fine with him speaking but after repeatedly asking that he give advance warning and only giving one day he felt that was not enough time considering the tight schedule. Arthur had applied for the general membership, he said because of Arthur's prior ban from the club's membership this will need to be brought to the executive committee first then the general membership.

Fran Baskin told us of a paper shredding event to happen on 12th Street between First and Second Avenues.

Attorney Andrea Weiss, new member, said she knew Barbara Underwood and urged members to ask their legislators not to appoint an interim AG.

Grace Price, speaking of her experience with false arrest and incarceration on Rikers, spoke of a movement to close the female inmate section in that jail.

The meeting was adjourned.