



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

**General Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2018**

The Agenda was unanimously adopted.

Immediately afterward, three candidates for NYS Attorney General spoke: Leecia Eve, Tish James, and Christine Gonzalez, speaking for Zephyr Teachout. After this, and a general discussion of the candidates, James won the endorsement with 23 votes, with Teachout second with 13, Maloney (?) 1, Eve 1, and one no endorsement.

After this, President Erik Coler congratulated Allison Stowell and Deb Sherman for the wonderful job they had done at the Gun Rally on June 2.

Keen Berger now gave her District Leader Report, speaking about the importance of petitioning. She said she hates it, but it must be done. She said she's here to give encouragement to you the petitioners. She exhorted everyone to do it, and said you can do anything for one hour.

Rachel Lavine, State Committeewoman, opened her remarks by telling us she seconded Zephyr Teachout for AG at the Convention. She and others founded the Progressive Caucus a couple of years ago, and it is now the largest caucus. They have accomplished a lot of things, among them, that the State Committee can no longer funnel donations, and won't support any candidate who caucused with the IDC. Catalina Lopez is the Vice Chair.

She spoke about the Jeff Klein investigation into his alleged sexual harassment, and said it was a whitewash where the victim was not interviewed. JCOPE will do an independent investigation. The goal is to make the state standard congruent with the city standard.

She next tackled the question of why she voted for Cuomo at the Convention. She has had differences with the Governor, but could not support Nixon because she's a celebrity candidate--like Trump. Cuomo needs to be pushed to the left, but there needs to be a qualified candidate in every small area. She closed with good words for Ben Yee.

Now Deb Sherman and Allison Stowell made their report for the Gun Reform Committee. They spoke of the Youth over Guns march on June 2, in which 1,500 people participated. They got 365 anti-gun postcards signed, with 19 volunteers. They have been in touch with Sen. Brian Kavanaugh, who has been very helpful. The next step will be a social media campaign on Monday--a twitter storm in which they urged people to tag Cuomo and your State Senator regarding gun control.



Nadine Hoffmann added that she and Tony had gone to a Gays Against Guns rally. The Hell's Kitchen Dems are also working on this issue, and we must reach out.

The ERPO law passed in Massachusetts. The same law is in the legislation here. Kavanaugh and Hoylman are working on it, and Kavanaugh is hopeful it will pass.

Nat Johnson spoke next for the Environmental Committee, and their current project, VID reusable bags, which Deb was also working on. They should be ready soon. He spoke of the next meeting's agenda: the plastic bag bill, a ban on styrofoam, a field trip in the fall to the Recycling Center, and a January Town Hall on recycling.

Tony gave the report for the Campaign Committee, again speaking of the importance of petitioning. He gave the calendar for petitioning and asked for volunteers.

He also gave the report for the Voter Reform Committee, as Laurie Hardjowirogo was upstate in CD19. He said they would adopt one or two anti-IDC handcards. There was a discussion about the cards. Petitions should be in by June 30.

On June 27, some of the candidates will be at Kate Linker's loft for a meet and greet. On June 20 there will be a fundraiser for Jessica Ramos and Robert Jackson.

Under New Business:

Irene Kaufman spoke of the new school at 75 Morton, and how it came about through grassroots organizing. She said the finished product was stunning, to keep advocating and amazing things can happen.

Katharine Wolpe mentioned that Yvonne Sherwell had a book signing at Art Bar this Sunday.

Grace Price spoke of being a survivor of the Rose M. Singer wing on Rikers Island, and that the Governor had expressed an interest in reducing the incarceration and detention of women.

Frieda Bradlow advised us that Annette Zaner had broken her ankle and was in Village Care. Ann Arlen was also there.

The meeting was adjourned.