



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

**General Meeting Minutes**

**October 11, 2018**

President Erik Coler opened the meeting with a vote to approve the agenda, which was unanimous. He thanked those who volunteered during the primary and congratulated the 66% of Democrats who voted. He noted it's just over a month until the General and exhorted people to sign up for buses or raise money for buses. The last two Saturdays \$431 and \$1071 was taken in. He thanked Ed Yutkowitz, Jen Hoppe, Nat Johnson, Susan Gottesman, Kathy Slawinski, and Keen Berger, and solicited volunteers for Saturday.

Benjamin Yee, State Committeeman, spoke briefly. The State Committee will meet October 1, after lots of drama and a possible pending lawsuit. He referred everyone to his blog.

Tony Hoffmann, of the Campaign Committee, spoke about sending buses to swing districts, with VID the leading sponsor among many downtown clubs. Jerry Nadler is a major participant, and Scott Stringer wants to be part of the effort. He also asked for volunteers at Abingdon Square.

Alex Tisch, unopposed candidate for NY Supreme Court spoke next. He thanked the club for its endorsement and made a short presentation.

District Leader Keen Berger gave a short speech in which she expressed optimism and exhorted people to get on buses and campaign. She also mentioned the upcoming County Committee meeting, which she said was unprecedented, and said we could make a difference as half the club was on the Committee.

Now it was time for Andrew Berman, Executive Director of GVSHP, to give a talk on the Tech Hub and clarify his position in opposition to City Council's Carlina Rivera. He spoke of Carlina's past support for landmarking protections and Rosie Mendez's enthusiastic support for them in order to control gentrification of the neighborhood. He faced three members of CB3, among them Susan Stetser, and Pedro of Carlina's office, with questions. There was a general discussion.

State Senator Brad Hoylman spoke for Andrew Cuomo, emphasizing that it was time to unite. He spoke of the State Senate having an operational Democratic majority and Andrea Stewart Cousins poised to be the first African-American leader. He spoke of upcoming legislation and the need for environmental laws, subway funding, congestion pricing, and closing corporate loopholes.

Next Gale Brewer, Borough President, spoke on the Tech Hub and the three Charter Proposals, urging a "no" vote on Proposals 2 and 3. She claimed that even though the Tech Hub had been okayed with zoning and landmarking protections, there was still leverage to negotiate them.



Nat Johnson, of the Environmental Committee, reported on the September 20 visit to the Sims Recycling Center. The Sanitation Department has suspended its organics collection program because of plan inefficiencies. Deb Sherman touted the reusable VID bags, \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members.

Deb and Allison Stowell made the report for the Gun Reform Committee. They said that after meeting with Brad's chief of staff, they were assured that ERPO would pass as part of the budget process. Also, issues like 3D guns, ghost guns, raise the age and bump stocks would possibly be addressed by legislation. A letter to Joseph Popcun, of Governor Cuomo's office, was passed around for signatures. Allison and Deb also met with New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, who were going to college campuses to ask students to sign pledges to vote. Also, there would be a postcard party at Allison's apartment.

Dan Roskoff made a brief presentation for his candidate for Municipal Court, Wendy Li. She was endorsed, 20-4.

People spoke for the three Supreme Court nominees, Lynn Kotler, Alex Tisch, and Mary Rosado and they were all endorsed unanimously.

Jim Yates spoke against Charter Proposals #2 and #3, calling them a transparent attempt by City Hall to take power from the Community Boards and the City Council.

Proposition #1 was endorsed 17-6. Proposition #2 was not endorsed, 0-19. Proposition #3 was not endorsed, 1-18 with 2 no endorsements.

There was a discussion for and against endorsing Governor Cuomo. He was endorsed 19 to 4 no endorse ballots.

Under New Business:

Sarah Kimbell spoke about the VCS building which is proposing building a five-story addition. She is against it.

Alison Greenberg spoke about the SBJSA bill and urged people to show up at the rally and meeting on October 22 and testify.

Judy Richheimer invited us to her club's (CRDC) meeting about the Charter Propositions debate on Thursday. David Eisenbach will be the facilitator.

Deb spoke about the VCS addition, which is on the agenda for the Monday Landmarks Commission meeting. She stressed this is not a clear cut issue.

Ed Yutkowitz urged everyone to visit [VoteBlueNYC.com](http://VoteBlueNYC.com).

Jen Hoppe spoke about buses to campaign for Mikey Sherrill and Nate McMurray. She urged a donation if you can't make the buses.

The meeting was adjourned.