



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

General Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2018

President Erik Coler opened the meeting with the unanimous adoption of the agenda, then went on to congratulate everyone on the Blue Wave, taking credit for the club for buses and campaigning. He gave a special shout out to Erik Bottcher, Laurie Hardjowirogo, and Tony Hoffmann. He has spoken to Carlina Rivera, who will appear at the December meeting. David Siffert will be organizing the potluck at the holiday party to be held at Frieda Bradlow's house in December.

There was a discussion about the Public Advocate's Forum to be held on November 12, and whether the club should co-sponsor. The club voted to co-sponsor with the caveat that all who ask to appear will be included, possibly at future VID meetings.

Erik also announced that the elections for club President and three Vice Presidents will be held in December, and he explained the rules.

Next up, Keen Berger gave the District Leader report. She first congratulated the club on its role in electing Antonio Delgado, Max Rose, and Ron Kim, and the NYS Senate victories. Secondly, she spoke of her role in public schools and in getting 75 Morton built, and a possible future fight for the Bleecker Street school. Thirdly, she spoke of her support for Deborah Glick and that she thought many of the attacks on her were examples of ageism.

Zella Jones advised the club of the situation of longtime member Ellen Peterson-Lewis, who is in failing health. She circulated a tributary letter to Ellen with a signing sheet, which members signed with personal messages.

Brad Hoylman, three term State Senator, gave a speech about recent victories in local races, and gave an agenda of things for the new Senate majority to implement. Among these are voting reform, ethics reform, womens reproductive health, anti-fracking waste laws, rent laws, the NY Health Act, the child victims act, LLC loopholes, and fixing the MTA.

Rachel Lavine, State Committeewoman, opened her talk by congratulating Brad on his performance in the Senate, and then thanked VID for its support. She ran unopposed because the opposition had not filed their paperwork correctly. She congratulated the NYS Senate on doubling the number of women members. She spoke of the Jeff Sessions firing and how people must urge Schumer to protest it. She spoke of the lawsuit her wife Robbie was bringing against Trump, and how it was being combined with the NY Southern District suit against Nazis and white supremacists in Charlottesville.



Next up was Ben Yee, State Committeeman, who congratulated Rachel on her new position on the Executive Committee of the State Committee. There will be County Committee elections in 2019 and he urged everyone to run. All meetings will be live-streamed on Facebook. There was also a resolution introduced condemning the anti-Semitic mailer sent out at the last minute against Cynthia Nixon.

Now it was Nat Johnson's turn, of the Environmental Committee, to report. He said Deb Sherman would report on her project, and the environmentally correct bags were selling well. Thursday mornings there will be composting on the corner of Sixth Avenue and Waverly. Since the holidays are coming, he urged people not to use bows, to use recyclable packaging (tissue paper is not recyclable), and pushed recyclable straws. He also advised us about upcoming events on solar power, coastal resilience, and managing solid waste. He urged us to call Governor Cuomo to express opposition to the Williams Pipeline.

Deb, of the Gun Reform Committee, passed out anti-gun postcards to be signed and advised of upcoming Gays Against Guns meetings.

Tony Hoffmann and Laurie Hardjowirogo of the Campaign Committee talked of the campaigning they did in NY, Long Island, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. They also thanked Kate Linker and Yayoi for their help. They spoke of the buses sent, the volunteers, canvassing and the money raised, and thanked a long list of members for their time.

Under New Business:

Katharine Wolpe expressed greetings from Yvonne Sherwell, who has been ill but hopes to be at Frieda's holiday party. She also notified us that there will be a memorial for David McReynolds, civil rights hero, December 1 at Judson.

John Bredin, citing rising rents in the Village, urged everyone to see a powerful new film, "The Lost Village", at Cinema Village, in which Sharon Woolums has a prominent role.

Grace Price said she'd been written up in the Times for her role in a lawsuit positing no one can be blocked on Twitter. She also spoke of the women detained in the Rose Singer Center on Rikers, some of whom have been held for longer terms than the crimes they were accused of would carry. She said a report was to come at closerosie's.org.

A person identified only as Pat told us there would be a Hands Off Mueller rally Saturday under the arch at Washington Square Park. Jen Hoppe contributed that Pat was on the campaign buses.

The meeting was adjourned.