

Four Freedoms Democratic Club  
December Executive Board Meeting  
December 7, 2018  
7:00-8:45pm  
Genesis Bar & Restaurant

### Minutes

Attendees: Bridget Cusick, President; Pierre Ratzki, Recording Secretary; John Bartos, Treasurer; Esther Yang, John Wagner, Arlene Kayatt, Ilyssa Fuchs, Members-at-Large; District Leader Ben Wetzler, Ex-Officio Member.

Absent: Frank Wilkinson, Vice President; Jerry Ferguson, Corresponding Secretary; Teresa Malyshev, Elana Schwartz, Bob Menna, Members-at-Large; District Leader Kim Moscaritolo, State Committee Member Adam Roberts, State Committee Member Lauren Trapanotto, Ex-Officio Members.

#### 1. Introduction

- a. President Bridget Cusick called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
  - i. However, as the meeting did not yet have a quorum present, official votes were postponed on several items until after quorum was reached at 7:37pm

#### 2. Facebook Discussion Page

- a. The Club had set up a Facebook member page, with the goal of fostering discussion and facilitating the dissemination of club messages
  - i. However, the page has not been widely used by members, and the Board voted unanimously to discontinue the page

#### 3. The Holiday Party

- a. The Board discussed last-minute matters relating to the upcoming holiday party, to be held on December 11, 2019 at Ryan's Daughter:
  - i. The events committee ordered a variety of Italian food; if it runs out, the restaurant is able to send more pizzas within a half hour
  - ii. Adam Roberts, Arlene Kayatt, Ben Wetzler, and Ilyssa volunteered to operate the sign-in table (with other volunteers welcome)
  - iii. New and renewing members will be able to pay membership dues at the party, including on their phones
  - iv. While Bridget will say a quick thanks, and recognize the attending elected officials as a group, there will be no further speeches

#### 4. Committee structures

- a. The Board discussed several possible changes to the structure of Club committees, including:

- i. The addition of a new committee on state and county committee reforms (which the Board already approved at its November 5th meeting)
  - ii. Merging the policy and activism committees
    - 1. This will help turn our policy goals into concrete results, at both the state and federal levels
  - iii. Organizing subcommittees (or “working groups”) in a bottom-up fashion, in order to engage as many members as possible and ensure they will put in the necessary effort
    - 1. Some possible subcommittee subjects include:
      - a. Fair elections
      - b. Transit
      - c. Criminal justice reform
      - d. Reproductive rights
- 5. Public advocate forum
  - a. Candidates for public advocate will be speaking at an interclub forum on January 3, 2019
    - i. Club members in attendance will gather immediately after the forum to vote on a candidate endorsement
      - 1. Candidates who do not show up at the forum will not be included on the Club’s ballot
- 6. Outreach to elected officials
  - a. The Board hopes to organize more meetings between Board members and our elected officials
    - i. This is essential to building relationships, and will let us know how the Club can be most helpful to the officials (and them to us)
    - ii. Meetings can include some earlier get-togethers (e.g., breakfasts), as well as evening events, to ensure that all can attend
- 7. Club anniversary
  - a. The Club will sponsor a happy hour event in February 2019, to celebrate the Club’s 5th anniversary
    - i. The Board discussed whether the event should be private, for members only, or open to all as a recruitment opportunity
      - 1. The Board unanimously agreed to the following compromise: dues-paying members are given wristbands that entitle them to free drinks (with the opportunity to pay dues at the door), while all non-members (including elected officials) must pay for their drinks
  - b. At the event, the policy and activism committee will poll attendees on the Club’s policy priorities as they arrive
    - i. Attendees will also be asked to participate in upcoming events, fundraisers, committee meetings, etc.

8. January general membership meeting

- a. Executive Board elections will be held at the Club's January 14, 2019 general membership meeting
  - i. Councilmember Brad Lander will speak about traffic safety for approximately 10 minutes, while the votes are tallied
- b. The Board discussed a proposed amendment to the Club's constitution to present at the meeting:
  - i. The District's share of county committee members and judicial delegates is calculated based on the turnout in the last gubernatorial race; because turnout was up this past election, the numbers have increased, to:
    - 1. 299 county committee members
    - 2. 16 judicial delegates, 16 alternates
  - ii. The Club constitution requires that we (1) run a full slate of candidates, and that (2) all endorsed candidates are full Club members
    - 1. However, running a full slate may prove difficult with 32 available positions for judicial and alternate judicial delegate, particularly as we want to ensure that all candidates are motivated/proactive (and will attend the conventions if elected)
  - iii. Accordingly, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a Constitutional amendment abolishing the full slate requirement
    - 1. This would not *prevent* us from running a full slate, if interest proved high enough, but would simply no longer *require* us to do so, thus giving us flexibility
  - iv. The amendment next goes to the full membership, which must approve it before it takes effect

9. March general membership meeting

- a. Representatives from a group promoting congestion pricing has asked to speak at the March 11, 2019 general membership meeting

10. Election reform bill

- a. The Club has already approved of the election reform bill passed by the City Council, which increased matching funds
  - i. A similar bill has been proposed at the state level; the bill, once written, will be presented to the Club for a vote of approval

11. Adjournment