

Four Freedoms Democratic Club  
January 2019 Executive Board Meeting  
January 22, 2019  
7:15-8:45pm  
Home of John Wagner, 431 E. 85th St.

### Minutes

Attendees: Bridget Cusick, President; Frank Wilkinson, Vice President; Pierre Ratzki, Recording Secretary; John Bartos, Treasurer; John Wagner, Flor de Maria Eilets, Arlene Kayatt, Ilyssa Fuchs, Alex Bores, Matt Lombardi, Esther Yang, Members-at-Large; Elana Schwartz, District Leader Ben Wetzler, District Leader Kim Moscaritolo, State Committee Member Adam Roberts, State Committee Member Lauren Trapanotto, Ex-Officio Members.

Absent: Jerry Ferguson, Corresponding Secretary; Teresa Malyshev, Member-at-Large.

#### 1. Introduction

- a. President Bridget Cusick called the meeting to order at 7:15pm, and began by congratulating the newly-elected Board members
  - i. Bridget gave a quick rundown of how the Board works, and noted that Board Members are expected to take a leadership role in petitioning, street fairs, committees, and other Club activities

#### 2. Nominating and endorsing candidates for judicial and alternate judicial delegates

- a. The recently-passed election reforms package combined the federal and state primaries, which has moved up our petitioning schedule and left us with less time to both nominate and vote on candidates for judicial delegate
  - i. Kim Moscaritolo's proposal:
    1. We nominate candidates at the February 11th general membership meeting
    2. Then have another meeting where we vote on endorsements shortly thereafter
  - ii. The Board unanimously supported this proposal
- b. Because of the [recently-passed constitutional amendment](#) freeing the Club from the obligation to endorse a full slate, we have to decide how many endorsements to make
  - i. The Board agreed that we should reach out to the other Upper East Side Clubs to discuss their plans for endorsements

#### 3. Public Advocate Primary

- a. Assuming that the primary for Public Advocate is in June, we will need to endorse at our March general membership meeting
  - i. The Board agreed unanimously, with one abstention (Frank Wilkinson)

4. 5th Anniversary Happy Hour
  - a. The Club's 5th anniversary is approaching, and we will be celebrating with a happy hour event that combines: (1) open bar for members, (2) cash bar for electeds/non-members, and (3) a petitioning kickoff
    - i. We are looking at the first week of March for the event
    - ii. The Events Committee is currently exploring which venues might work; one possibility is 2 Doors Tavern on 3rd Ave.
5. Programming for March through June Meetings
  - a. Possible agenda items for our March and June meetings include:
    - i. Transit issues
      1. TransAlt – a group that supports congestion pricing – have offered to speak
    - ii. City Council Speaker Corey Johnson
      1. We have been working to coordinate a date with his office
    - iii. Marijuana legalization
      1. While this has been proposed, the devil will be in the details
      2. Fred might take a leadership role in promoting the issue
  - b. Agendas will also be driven in part by:
    - i. Committee meetings (e.g. new Policy & Activism Committee)
    - ii. Meetings with electeds and their priorities
6. Restructuring of committees
  - a. John W. and Kim gave an update on the restructuring of committees
    - i. The Policy & Activism committees have been combined
      1. The new committee will be very large, and will thus require a big venue for a full meeting
      2. However, the hope is that the committee will not need meet as a whole very often
        - a. Instead, subgroups will tackle discrete issues, meet and communicate independently, and report back to the entire committee
          - i. John, Kim, and Pierre will try to determine who will head each subgroup and keep track of their efforts
  - b. John's proposal: because we are having a second meeting in February to vote on endorsements for judicial delegate, we can ask members of the new Policy & Activism Committee to meet after the endorsement vote
7. Judicial reform
  - a. A [recent op-ed by Ross Barkan](#) has raised the issue of reforming the system for choosing judges in the state
    - i. Proposals for reform include a constitutional amendment, consolidating lower courts, and moving to a merits-based appointment system
  - b. The Board discussed the pros and cons of potential reform

- i. Reorganization of judicial selection process would financially impact the Clubs
  - ii. Frank noted the following:
    - 1. Judicial delegates are informed to a much greater degree than individual primary voters ever could be
    - 2. An appointments system would give the Governor a monopoly on judicial selection
  - c. The issue of reform will be raised in the Policy & Activism Committee, which, if there is enough interest, could lead to the creation of a subgroup
    - i. The Club could also host a forum on the issue, which would be a good opportunity to explain the current system in detail, compare it to other states' systems, and debate the different methods of choosing judges
- 8. Public Advocate race updates
  - a. Ben has been speaking with Jumaane Williams' events coordinator in order to organize more get-out-the-vote events prior to the special election
- 9. Social Media Committee update
  - a. Jerry (via email) informed the Board that he wants to relinquish his position as chair of the Social Media Committee
- 10. Adjournment