

Four Freedoms Democratic Club
April General Membership Meeting
April 8, 2019
The Church of the Holy Trinity, Draesel Hall
7:00-9:00pm

Minutes

1. Welcome (2 min)
 - a. Vice President Frank Wilkinson called the meeting to order

2. Committee Updates (25 min)
 - a) Policy & Activism Committee:
 - i) With no major elections this year, the P&A committee will be focused on promoting policy issues, especially at the city and state levels
 - 1) The various working groups will be convening and drafting policy proposals
 - b) Working Group Updates:
 - i) Education Working Group
 - 1) Co-chaired by Amy Schwartz and Debra Freeman
 - 2) Supporting fully funding Foundation Aid, which goes to needy districts/students
 - 3) Studying policies aimed at improving mental health in schools
 - ii) Aid in Dying Working Group
 - 1) Chaired by John Wagner
 - 2) First meeting will be booked soon, members were encouraged to email John if interested
 - iii) Transportation Working Group
 - 1) Chaired by Nancy Lang
 - 2) Supported congestion pricing, which was approved of in the most recent budget
 - iv) Environmental Working Group
 - 1) Chaired by Mike Shatzkin
 - 2) Drafted a [resolution](#) supporting a carbon tax, which was voted on later (see below)
 - (a) Working on garnering the support of electeds and other clubs as well
 - v) Marijuana Working Group
 - 1) Chaired by Fred Newton
 - 2) Already had one meeting, with another to be scheduled soon

- 3) May 4 is the marijuana march; FFDC supported the last two, and the working group hopes for a presence there this year as well
- vi) Healthcare Working Group
 - 1) Chaired by Lee Wiggins
 - 2) Met this past Friday, intends to meet again soon
 - 3) Supports Community Board 8M's panel discussion on the New York Health Act, which would provide universal coverage to New Yorkers
- vii) Fair Elections Working Group
 - 1) Chaired by District Leader Ben Wetzler
 - 2) Drafted and passed a resolution in favor of matching funds and banning LLC contributions
 - (a) However, the budget was finalized several weeks ago and did *not* include these items
 - (i) Instead, the budget created a commission to study matching funds
 - (ii) Fair Elections is working with legislators to write a "gold star bill" that will hopefully guide the commission as it puts together a matching funds program, and/or supersede whatever the commission puts out if it falls short
 - 3) One goal is to organize a public event over the summer to disperse more information on fair elections and get people involved
- viii) Democratic Party Reforms Working Group
 - 1) Chaired by John Wagner
 - 2) Met once so far and will meet again in June
 - 3) This group will propose reforms to both the County Committee and State Committee, which will aim to make the organizations more democratic, inclusive, and transparent
- ix) Rapid Response Committee
 - 1) Chaired by Jerry, presented by Marina Phillips
 - 2) The group held a meeting two weeks ago, and came out for a well-attended rally last Thursday in support of releasing the full Mueller report
- c) Diversity & Outreach Committee
 - i) Chaired by Tricia Shimamura
 - ii) One goal is to get more young members to join – ultimate goal is to get 3, and 1 will be joining soon
 - iii) The committee will be sending out sign-up sheets for street fairs via email
- d) Social Media Committee

- i) Chaired by Alex Bores
 - ii) Encouraged members to Follow FFDC on the various social media platforms
 - 1) Working groups were encouraged to reach out to Alex if they want to promote a policy proposal on social media
- 3. Resolution on Carbon Tax (15 min)
 - a) The Environmental Working Group presented a [resolution](#), written by Mike Shatzkin and John Wagner, that supports placing a tax on carbon
 - i) After a discussion, the resolution passed unanimously
- 4. District Leaders Updates (10 min)
 - a) Presented by District Leaders Ben Wetzler and Kim Moscaritolo
 - i) Thanked members for petitioning, and getting all of our candidates on the ballot for the June primary
 - ii) Once the schedule for the biannual County Committee meeting is released, Kim and Ben will distribute the information to all members
 - 1) Hope to continue Party reforms at this meeting and going forward
- 5. State Committee Updates (5 minutes)
 - a) Presented by State Committee Member Lauren Trapanotto
 - b) State Committee Chair Jay S. Jacobs named Alexander Wang as the new Executive Director of the New York State Democratic Party
 - i) He is replacing Geoff Berman, whom he served under
 - ii) He worked on the New York State Coordinated Campaign in the last election cycle
 - iii) He also served as Compliance Director to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's re-election campaign
 - c) The next meeting is in October; Lauren will report back
- 6. Member Time (10 minutes)
 - a) Erica Vladimer will be part of a press conference with Harassment Free Albany on April 17th
 - i) The group calls on the New York State legislature to set dates for additional hearings on sexual harassment, and to pass meaningful reforms before the end of this session
 - b) Reminder: Fundraiser Thursday!
 - i) The Club is hosting its spring fundraiser at Bohemian Spirit on Thursday, April 11th, at 7pm

7. Adjourn