

Four Freedoms Democratic Club
May Executive Board Meeting
May 1, 2019
7:30-8:45pm
Home of Teresa Malyshev & Jerry Ferguson

Minutes

Attendees: Bridget Cusick, President; Frank Wilkinson, Vice President; John Bartos, Treasurer; Jerry Ferguson, Corresponding Secretary; Pierre Ratzki, Recording Secretary; Teresa Malyshev, Matt Lombardi, Arlene Kayatt, Ilyssa Fuchs, Flor De Maria Eilets, Alex Bores, Members-at-Large; State Committee Member Lauren Trapanotto, District Leader Kim Moscaritolo, District Leader Ben Wetzler, Ex-Officio Members.

Absent: Esther Yang, John Wagner, Members-at-large; State Committee Member Adam Roberts, Ex-Officio Member.

1) Introduction

- a. President Bridget Cusick called the meeting to order

2) Events update

- a. Summer party:

- i. The Club needs to settle on a date for the summer party/barbecue
 1. In the past, we have hosted at Reif's Tavern, starting around 1pm (with Matt Lombardi on the grill), which has worked out well
 2. We have always chosen a Sunday in August
 - a. Given the date of the judicial convention, August 4th, 18th, and 25th are potential dates; the Events Committee will follow up on these dates with Reif's

- b. Fall fundraiser:

- i. The Club needs to settle on a date for the Fall Fundraiser, which will be sometime between October 10th and 30th
 1. Note that Jewish holidays are falling late this year
- ii. The fundraiser is usually held at Dorrian's, but we have also had events at Ryan's Daughter
 1. The Events Committee will figure out where & when to host the fundraiser and report back to the Board for approval

3) Potential straw poll and endorsement event

- a. Club Member Charles Riggs has proposed a mini caucus-type event to hold a straw poll for the Presidential campaign and potentially choose an endorsement
 - i. This event could be combined with a debate watching party, e.g., for the first debates held on the 26th and 27th

- b. Jerry Ferguson will reach out to campaigns to ask whether surrogates are available to talk to the Clubs, either at a debate party or at a regular (or multi-Club) meeting
- c. If/when the Club eventually makes an endorsement, we can also endorse a slate of delegates for the national convention

4) Judicial forum

- a. Instead of an official forum (with all 18 candidates), the Club will consider hosting a more informal event, where our delegates/alternates can meet some of the more likely judicial nominees
 - i. An informal setting will better allow our members to assess the candidates' temperament, values, and credentials
 - ii. The event would have to be held *after* August 3rd (when the panel is out) but *before* August 12th (judicial convention)
- b. The Judiciary Committee (specifically Kim Moscaritolo & Arlene Kayatt) will take the lead in organizing the event

5) July-December meetings

- a. The Board unanimously agreed to schedule July through December 2019 meetings at Church of the Holy Trinity, on the 2nd Monday of each month
 - i. With the exception of the September meeting, which will be held on Roosevelt Island

6) Street fairs

- a. The first street fair of the summer will be on Saturday, May 11th, from 10am-6pm on 2nd Ave
 - i. Our booth will be #241, between 79th and 80th Streets
 - ii. All Board members are encouraged to sign up to work the booth, and we will also get the word out to general members
 - iii. The Board unanimously approved of the estimated \$275 expenditure involved in renting the booth, chairs, table, etc.
- b. The next street fair will be on Sunday, September 15th, on 3rd Ave

7) Funds for County Committee divisional meeting

- a. Every year we hold a County Committee divisional meeting, hosted jointly with the other District Leaders (Jill Eisner & Josh Kravitz)
 - i. At this meeting, we can appoint people to fill County Committee vacancies, as well as elect a Chair & Secretary of the division
 - ii. Since we are not funding any elections this year, perhaps the Club can allocate funds for this divisional meeting
 - 1. The Board unanimously approved the estimated \$150-200 expenditure

8) Resolutions

- a. One of the rationales for merging the Activism and Policy Committees was that every resolution would be attached to an “action plan” to advance the policy with electeds, the public, other clubs, and so on
 - i. Some possible action plans: drafting letter-writing language, identifying or organizing marches, organizing a phone banking campaign to get electeds on board, etc.
- b. If members want to propose a resolution, their policy should have an accompanying action plan
 - i. The Board unanimously approved of this policy, while noting that the Club does *not* have to simultaneously approve of the specifics of the action plan when approving of the resolution

9) Pride Month

- a. June 2019 is the 50th anniversary of Pride
- b. Assemblymember Rebecca Seawright has invited our Club to march with her in the parade
 - i. We will also look into a speaker for the June meeting
 - 1. One possibility: Ilyssa Fuchs knows Stacy Lentz, who is the co-owner of Stonewall Inn

10) Club Funds

- a. One possible use of Club funds: a campaign to send postcards to people in the district promoting the Club
 - i. The postcard could inform people of our Club’s working groups, the issues we support, upcoming meetings, the work we’re looking forward to doing in 2020, etc.
- b. Two options for promotion:
 - i. We can use the public voter file
 - ii. OR can pay consultants who might have more detailed lists, enabling more granular targeting
 - 1. This would probably cost around \$2000
- c. Ben Wetzler will spearhead the postcard design, and will present a more concrete proposal at the next Board meeting

11) Adjourn