

Four Freedoms Democratic Club
June Executive Board Meeting
June 18, 2019
7:00-8:45pm
Home of Kim Moscaritolo & John Bartos

Minutes

Attendees: Bridget Cusick, President; Frank Wilkinson, Vice President; John Bartos, Treasurer; Jerry Ferguson, Corresponding Secretary; Pierre Ratzki, Recording Secretary; Esther Yang, Arlene Kayatt, Alex Bores, Members-at-Large; State Committee Member Lauren Trapanotto, District Leader Kim Moscaritolo, District Leader Ben Wetzler, Ex-Officio Members; Erica Vladimer, Congressional Candidate; Jason Bohner, Member.

Absent: John Wagner, Teresa Malyshev, Matt Lombardi, Ilyssa Fuchs, Flor De Maria Eilets, Members-at-large; State Committee Member Adam Roberts, Ex-Officio Member.

1) Introduction

- a. President Bridget Cusick called the meeting to order
 - i. Without a quorum yet present, any items that needed votes were tabled until later

2) Erica Vladimer

- a. Erica Vladimer introduced herself to the Board as a candidate for the 12th Congressional District Democratic nomination
- b. Ms. Vladimer has been a leader on pushing for sexual harassment reforms at the state capitol
 - i. She is a member of the Sexual Harassment Working Group, which is made up of former legislative staffers who have experienced harassment
 - ii. Because of the group's efforts, the legislature is set to pass sweeping reforms
- c. Ms. Vladimer is running for Congress because she wants to be part of a new generation that pushes leadership to not just adopt progressive policies once they've become popular, but lead on them from the start
- d. Q&A:
 - i. On impeachment – she feels it should not be a political decision, but instead is a constitutional and moral duty, and that this President has abused the powers of his office
 - ii. On housing policy – she supports increased lead removal and increasing the availability of public housing
 - iii. How can the Democratic House break the gridlock in the GOP-controlled Senate?
 1. Ultimately, we have to compromise on some issues, as it is better to take half step forward than to stay still

3) Programming for upcoming meetings

- a. July:
 - i. State Senator Liz Krueger is tentatively available
 - ii. Member Amy Schwartz's husband is a well-known tenant lawyer, who can give a presentation on the new rent laws
 - iii. Kim will reach out about availability
- b. August:
 - i. No meeting, but the Club will be hosting its annual barbecue
- c. September:
 - i. Will be hosted on Roosevelt Island
 - ii. State Senator Jose Serrano will attend
 - iii. The transportation and infrastructure groups can talk about Roosevelt-Island-specific transit issues
 - iv. Spacing issue:
 - 1. Unfortunately, the RIVAA Gallery has decided that it does not want to host the Club this year, as it is a nonprofit (despite this status not presenting any actual bar to hosting)
 - 2. Esther Yang and Ben Wetzler offered to look into alternate venues
- d. Miscellaneous:
 - i. Protect the rule of law working group
 - 1. Jerry Ferguson raised the idea that this group should organize protests whenever there's the need for a rapid response, no matter the subject matter (abortion rights, Iran war, etc.)
 - a. The Board agreed, and didn't think this would step on the toes of any other working groups
 - ii. YAFED (Young Advocates for a Fair Education)
 - 1. This group advocates for increased oversight of Yeshiva school standards, since many students graduate without ever having learned the constitutionally-required subjects (e.g. male graduates cannot read or write in English or do basic math)
 - 2. The group is looking to meet with local political organizations and talk about their work
 - a. However, the Board decided to hold off on reaching out to the group, as their focus might not be a subject of great interest to members
 - iii. Concilmember Carlina Rivera would like to speak to the Club about legislation to properly inform expectant mothers of their rights before they are drug tested

4) Integration of the Youth Board

- a. Jason Bohner, the Chair of the Youth Board, spoke to the Board about integrating the YB's activities into the Club's

- i. The goal is to ensure that the YB is put in touch with all of our committees and working groups
 - ii. The YB is already working with Mike Shatzkin's group on a carbon tax resolution, and coordinating with Jerry on rapid response protests
- b. Don't want group to just be symbolic

5) Judicial delegate forum

- a. The Club will be hosting a joint forum for judicial candidates with the other east side clubs on August 6th at The New Church in midtown
 - i. All Judicial Delegates and Alternate Judicial Delegates should attend

6) Upcoming events

- a. Democratic Presidential Debate watch is scheduled for June 27th at Dorrian's Red Hand
 - i. The Board unanimously approved of a food expenditure up to \$200
- b. The barbecue is scheduled for August 18th at Reif's Tavern, starting around 1pm
 - i. Ben offered to operate the grill
- c. The Fall fundraiser will take place sometime in late October
 - i. Venue options include: Dorrian's; 3rd Ave Ale House; The Supply House

7) Adjourn