

Four Freedoms Democratic Club
September Executive Board Meeting
September 19, 2019
7:00-8:15pm
Home of Kim Moscaritolo & John Bartos

Minutes

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

Absent: Matt Lombardi, Member-at-Large; State Committee Member Adam Roberts, Ex-Officio Member.

1) Introduction

- a. Vice President Frank Wilkinson called the meeting to order

2) Management of the Club for the rest of the year

- a. President Bridget Cusick is moving to Virginia to pursue an exciting work opportunity, and will therefore resign her office
- b. The question arises as to the presidential succession:
 - i. The constitution provides that the Vice President assumes the presidency for the remainder of the term, i.e., until elections in January 2020 – more specifically:
 1. “In the event that the President, due to absence, death, resignation, removal, candidacy for public office, or other reason, is permanently unable to fulfill the duties of the office of President, the Vice President shall become President for the remainder of the unexpired term.”¹
 - ii. While Bridget did not explicitly resign, the Board considers her to have de facto resigned, as her relocation renders her “permanently unable to fulfill the duties of the office of President”
- c. Vice President Frank Wilkinson is thus elevated to Club President
 - i. The board is empowered to fill the resulting vacancy for the office of VP
 1. The Club will invite any interested members to submit nominations

3) Youth Board

- a. Jason Bohner gave an update on the Youth Board’s activities
- b. Voter Town Hall project:

¹ The full Club Constitution & Bylaws can be found [here](#).

- i. The YB has been registering students to vote, taking advantage in the reform that allows pre-registration at age 16
- ii. Senator Liz Krueger's office has been very helpful in these efforts
- c. Youth Civics Fair:
 - i. The YB is helping plan a fair to boost youth civic engagement, and is looking for the Club's support
- d. Educational inequities:
 - i. The YB is hoping to put forth proposals on inequities in New York's educational system, and will reach out to the Club's education working group to coordinate efforts

4) 2020 Endorsement schedule

- a. Federal endorsements:
 - i. The Board discussed a possible inter-club forum in early-to-mid January for Congressional endorsements
- b. Presidential endorsements:
 - i. The 2020 New York Democratic Presidential primary is being held on April 28, 2020
 - ii. The Board discussed whether the Club should endorse in the primary at all, and if so when
 - 1. In favor of endorsing:
 - a. The NY primary has more delegates this time, and thus could have a bigger impact on the nomination
 - b. We could get surrogates (or even candidates themselves) to speak to the Club if we endorse
 - 2. Against endorsing:
 - a. We will not be petitioning for any candidates, or otherwise campaigning for them, so what is the point of an endorsement?
 - b. The vote could prove very divisive in the Club
 - iii. Jerry Ferguson made a motion to decide whether the Board or the Club will decide whether to endorse:
 - 1. The Board voted to let the full Club decide whether to endorse, with 6 votes in favor (vs. 4 votes in favor of the Board deciding)
 - iv. Accordingly, at the next meeting, members will vote on whether to endorse
 - 1. If the Club votes yes, we will hold a separate vote on *when* to endorse

5) Upcoming events

- a. Fall fundraiser:
 - i. The fundraiser will be held at Dorrian's Red Hand, with the date still tbd
 - 1. Members will be able to both donate and renew their memberships

- 2. Free food; cash bar
- b. Holiday party:
 - i. The holiday party will be held at Ryan's Daughter, with the date still tbd
 - 1. Ilyssa Fuchs has drafted a menu from the same Italian restaurant as last year
- c. Meetings:
 - i. The October general meeting will be held on the 10/21
 - 1. The agenda will include:
 - a. Guest speaker City Councilmember Carlina Rivera
 - b. Presentation on charter revisions
 - c. Education funding resolution
 - d. Vote on whether to have a presidential endorsement
 - ii. The November general meeting will be held on 11/18
 - 1. The agenda *may* include:
 - a. Presidential endorsement discussion & vote (depending on the outcome of the vote at the October meeting)
 - b. Presentation from someone at Fair Elections Campaign on the ongoing work of the reforms commission
 - c. Youth Board educational equity forum
 - iii. The December meeting:
 - 1. A motion to cancel the December meeting and focus instead on the holiday party passed, with 7 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention

6) Possible Club mailing for the November election

- a. Every year, the Club sends a mailer about the upcoming election
 - i. This is usually to inform the community about our endorsement in an upcoming contested primary; however, there is no contested primary this year
- b. Kim proposes that we still send out a mailer, to remind people of the following:
 - i. Early voting is available this year, for the first time
 - ii. Vote for Jumaane Williams for Public Advocate
 - iii. Support ranked choice voting
 - 1. The mailer would also include a link to our website, to get the word out to people in our community that the Club exists and is always welcoming new members
- c. Jerry made a motion to authorize a Club expenditure of \$2500 on the mailer, which passed unanimously

7) East River Park

- a. The East Side Coastal Resiliency Project aims to shore up the East River coastline in order to protect it from damage due to climate change and rising water levels
 - i. A proposal to invite Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer to talk to the Club about the renovations did not gain enough support
 - 1. Ilyssa noted that the park is not in our district, while the esplanade by Carl Schurz is still mired in disruptive renovations

8) Other business

- a. Ilyssa wanted to let the Board know that she may not be running for reelection as a Member-at-Large in 2020, as might be moving out of the District, but she hopes to remain involved in the Club no matter what

9) Adjourn