

Four Freedoms Democratic Club  
March 10 Executive Board Meeting  
March 10, 2020  
6:00-7:15pm  
Building of Alex Bores and Flor de Maria Eilets, 400 E. 90th St.

### Minutes

Attendees: Jerry Ferguson, President; Frank Wilkinson, Vice President; Alex Bores, Corresponding Secretary; Pierre Ratzki, Recording Secretary; John Bartos, Treasurer; Amy Schwartz, Arlene Kayatt, Flor de Maria Eilets, Jeremy Berman, John Wagner, Marina Phillips, Ruth Halberg, Members-at-Large; Ben Wetzler, District Leaders & Ex-Officio Member; Adam Roberts, Lauren Trapanotto, State Committee Members & Ex-Officio Members.

Absent: Matthew Lombardi, Member-at-Large; Kim Moscaritolo, District Leader & Ex-Officio Member.

#### 1. Introduction

- a. President Jerry Ferguson called the meeting to order, and thanked Alex and Flor for hosting

#### 2. Discussion of the budget

- a. Treasurer John Bartos shared a detailed budget sheet to inform the rest of the Board of the status of the club's finances
- b. Jerry made a motion to form a working group – consisting of Jerry, Amy, and John – to work with John to create a budget plan
  - i. Motion carries unanimously

#### 3. Discussion of impact of COVID-19 on Club Events

- a. The Board discussed the possible need to cancel upcoming in-person club events in light of the novel coronavirus pandemic
  - i. Some members argued that the club should follow the example of other institutions and avoid in-person gatherings for the time being
  - ii. Some board members advocated for keeping the events as scheduled, for now, while also crafting protocols for avoiding risk
  - iii. Alex suggested that the club work on livestreaming upcoming meetings via social media and/or teleconferencing software
- b. A motion was raised to keep the in-person March meeting scheduled, while adding a remote participation option and putting in place social distancing protocols
  - i. 9 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention

#### 4. Preparation for Upcoming Spring Events

- a. March Meeting agenda:

- i. Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright has canceled her appearance
      - ii. The club has invited epidemiologist Dr. Dana Mazon to speak about the impact of COVID-19
      - iii. Presidential endorsement vote
      - iv. Resolution on Trump's abuse of power, prepared by John Wagner
        - 1. The Board agreed that this will be moved to an email blast instead
    - b. April Fundraiser at Bohemian Spirit:
      - i. Tickets will be \$100 for member; \$200 regular
      - ii. The Board debated whether to cancel or reschedule
        - 1. Members agreed that it was premature to do so, and the club has already paid a deposit
        - 2. The events committee offered to reach out to the event space to find out the latest possible day by which to change the event
      - iii. The club will be calling members to ask for their participation in the fundraiser, on March 18th, 7pm, at Adam Robert's apartment
5. Member engagement
  - a. The Board discussed ways to ensure maximum engagement by members, especially people who are new to the club
    - i. We should encourage new or recent attendees to stand up and introduce themselves
    - ii. Members can wear nametags
    - iii. New people can receive a standard welcome email, which will include the club's mission statement, information about upcoming events, and an invitation to join working groups
6. Planning for Fall Elections
  - a. The club formed an election committee at the last meeting, which will focus on maximizing the club's impact on the 2020 elections
    - i. By early April, the core group of people who have expressed interest should meet and craft an action plan
7. Protocol for approving working group actions
  - a. The board discussed ways to ensure that working groups' efforts are fruitful and best represent the club's belief
    - i. Members agreed that there must be some process of board/club approval before groups make any statements or actions in the name of the Club
      - 1. John Wagner offered to work on a more concrete proposal and present it at the next Board meeting
8. Accessibility issues at Draesel Hall
  - a. Members have voiced concerns over the accessibility of the club's most frequent meeting place, Draesel Hall

- i. The club will look into ways to ensure that our meeting spaces are accessible to all, as well as alternate entrance options at Draesal Hall (e.g. first entering into the sanctuary via the ramp)

9. Managing and Updating Website Content

- a. The club's website is not updated frequently enough, and the board agreed to divide responsibility between the various groups going forward

10. Petitioning

- a. The club has thus far collected around 1000 signatures, and hopes to collect about 500 more
  - i. Board members are encouraged to sign up for shifts

11. Adjourn