

Four Freedoms Democratic Club  
April Executive Board Meeting  
April 7, 2020  
6:30-8:00pm  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

### 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, Matthew Lombardi, Ruth Halberg, Members-at-Large; Ben Wetzler, Kim Moscaritolo, Adam Roberts, Lauren Trapanotto, Tricia Shimamura, Ex-Officio Members.

Absent: None.

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- a. President Jerry Ferguson called the meeting to order, and invited all attendees to give an update on how they are holding up during the coronavirus pandemic

2. Budget Discussion (10 minutes)

- a. The pandemic will impact the club's fundraising ability, and we have already postponed the spring fundraiser
  - i. However, the club has a decent amount of funds in the bank, and is not currently spending much due to the pandemic
- b. The Board agreed that this time is an opportunity to look at new networking, outreach, recruiting, and social media opportunities, and how these can help shore up the club's finances

3. Building Membership (15 minutes)

- a. The Board raised the possibility of a drop in membership due to fewer recruiting opportunities
  - i. The club often receives a large membership boost via the Spring fundraiser, which has been canceled
- b. The Board discussed ways to reach out to the community during this time; ideas included:
  - i. The FFDC Neighbors Program, which provides grocery delivery and other assistance to those in need
  - ii. Coordination with local businesses
  - iii. Promoting activism around the upcoming elections
  - iv. Investment in social media and local advertising
  - v. Holding more virtual events – e.g., game nights; movie watch parties; debate watch parties

- vi. Promoting the Facebook discussion group, which has already grown rapidly and proven to be a great forum for engagement

4. Upcoming Events (10 minutes)

- a. Spring fundraiser:
  - i. Bohemian Spirit has given the club the option to reschedule the fundraiser to a date in June
    - 1. The Board agreed that this is too soon, and we should wait until at least the fall
- b. Summer barbecue:
  - i. As the club's gift to the community, the BBQ has always been a free event
    - 1. However, Matt Lombardi suggested using it as a fundraiser in light of the cancelation of prior money-raising events
      - a. The Board authorized the events committee to explore this option

5. Zoom Issues (15 Minutes)

- a. Alex Bores gave the Board an update on issues surrounding Zoom, the videoconferencing software the club has been using for meetings
  - i. Zoom had announced a policy change that would have required the club to purchase an upgraded account
    - 1. However, it later canceled these changes, and our current plan remains the best option
  - ii. Recent news stories have raised concerns over privacy and security issues surrounding Zoom
    - 1. However, none of these affect the club, as they are more relevant to the use of Zoom for schooling purposes
- b. Alex proposed using password protection for all meetings, as we did for today's meeting
  - i. Zoom can create a link with password embedded, so invitees do not have to enter it themselves
    - 1. The club can use a link without the password on public sites, which would avoid "zoom-bombing"
  - ii. Other Board members expressed concern that password protection would dissuade participation
    - 1. For instance, our last meeting was so well-attended because Representative Maloney posted the link on her website
- c. A motion was considered to *not* have a password for meetings
  - i. The vote was tied, at 6 to 6, and the motion did not carry (thus, all meetings will continue to be password-protected)

6. Upcoming Meetings (10 minutes)

- a. April meeting agenda:
  - i. Guest speaker City Council Member Mark Levine Chair of the Committee on Health

- ii. Guest speaker on rent relief (tbd)
      - iii. Other electeds may want to provide an update as well
    - b. May meeting agenda:
      - i. City Council Member Carlina Rivera, Chair of Hospitals Committee
        - 1. Esther Yang can reach out to her office
      - ii. Speaker on virtual activism (tbd)
    - c. June meeting agenda:
      - i. Presidential endorsement vote, if there is still a competitive primary
7. Activism Update (10 minutes)
- a. Medical worker whistleblower protection:
    - i. The healthcare working group drafted a [resolution](#) to provide whistleblower protection to healthcare workers
      - 1. Hospitals are putting workers under gag orders on and threatening to fire anyone who speaks out about bad conditions
    - ii. The Board voted unanimously to approve of and promote the resolution, and to reach out to our elected officials on the issue
  - b. Rent relief:
    - i. The Board discussed ways to promote rent relief bills, and agreed to follow up with our elected officials
  - c. Vote-by-mail:
    - i. The Board voted unanimously to support universal vote-by-mail
      - 1. The elections working group will look further into whether the Governor can order this measure unilaterally Board votes to advocate for vote by mail
8. Adjourn