

Four Freedoms Democratic Club
May 2020 Executive Board Meeting
May 12, 2020
7:00-8:15pm
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, Ex-Officio Members.

1. Potentially Engagement of the Club with the Biden Campaign
 - a. The Board discussed the best way to get involved with the Biden campaign, and agreed to let members know of any upcoming volunteer opportunities
 - b. Discussion of how to appropriately address the assault allegation:
 - i. While the club will never come to universal agreement about the veracity of the allegations, we must all move forward with respect for survivors and sensitivity to the issues surrounding such allegations
2. Membership Pricing
 - a. The Board discussed whether the club website should offer various membership price levels, including a reduced price as well as higher options
 - i. A motion to have the membership page reflect the various pricing options outlined in the club bylaws carried unanimously
3. Upcoming Meetings and Events
 - a. What would be our criteria for when we have in-person meetings again?
 - i. We will be guided by the public health guidance,
 1. However, even when most businesses are permitted to reopen, large in-person meetings may still feel unsafe, and a virtual option will remain a good idea
 - ii. In light of the constantly-changing landscape, the Board agreed to table any decision until later
 - b. May meeting agenda:
 - i. Guest speaker CM Carlina Rivera
 - ii. Presentation on virtual campaigning, co-sponsored by Indivisible
 - iii. Possible remarks by AM Seawright and/or CM Kallos
 - iv. Reports from District Leaders, State Committee Members, and Club Committees/Working Groups
 - v. Reminder for all members to complete the Census
 - c. Possible future meeting agenda items:
 - i. We are overdue for another visit from Senator Liz Krueger
 - ii. CM Keith Powers (John B. will reach out to his office)

- iii. The Board will encourage working groups to suggest items
 - iv. Presentation on the basics of election law & ballot access
 - v. Guest speaker on civic education (Amy will pursue possible speakers)
 - d. Spring Fundraiser:
 - i. The fundraiser as been moved to the fall: Thursday, September 24th
- 4. PPE Initiative
 - a. Downtown Independent Democrats (DID) have been coordinating with the COVID Foundation on their campaign to purchase PPE kits and distribute them to groups in need in their neighborhoods (e.g., home care workers), and have asked us to join their initiative
 - i. Kim and others have been vetting the initiative, and, unfortunately, it is not yet at a place where FFDC can get involved
- 5. Judiciary Committee Report
 - a. We will have two to four open seats on NY Supreme Court this year, and thus will have many applications to sift through
 - b. The schedule is as follows:
 - i. Groups sending screening panel members should respond by 6/8
 - ii. Candidate applications will be accepted by the County through 6/19
 - iii. The screening panel will convene on 6/22, and will report out names by 7/28
 - iv. The Judicial Convention, which may be held remotely, will be sometime between 8/6 and 8/12
- 6. Playbook for Working Groups
 - a. John W., in consultation with Amy and others, has put together a playbook of best practices for our working groups
 - i. The playbook offers guidance on how to move from an idea to a resolution to advocacy to results
 - ii. We will distribute the playbook to every chair/co-chair of working groups, and possibly post it on the website as well
- 7. Rent Relief Initiative
 - a. Lauren gave an update on the status of various efforts, at both the state and federal levels, to provide rent relief
 - i. Federal:
 - 1. Relief will be in Dems House bill
 - 2. Lauren will reach out to contacts to see if we can get a speaker on the subject
 - ii. State:
 - 1. There are several initiatives circulating in the legislature
 - 2. Lauren has talked to Liz Krueger, Serrano, and other electeds about their support for relief
- 8. Adjourn