

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

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, Marina Phillips, Ruth Halberg, Members-at-Large; Ben Wetzler, Kim Moscaritolo, Adam Roberts, Ex-Officio Members.

Absent: Matthew Lombardi, John Wagner, Members-at-Large.

Minutes

1. August Social Event

- a. Several members have expressed interest in an outdoor summer event, in lieu of our usual August social event, with appropriate social distancing in place
 - i. However, Board members noted that the law currently limits gatherings to only 25 or fewer people
- b. We will task the committees and working groups with brainstorming possible outdoor events for the future, with an emphasis on activism as a component

2. Fall Fundraiser

- a. While we cannot have an indoor fundraiser as usual, members offered other options
 - i. One possibility, suggested by Jerry, is to have a virtual wine tasting event and fundraiser

3. State Assembly Endorsement Vote

- a. There are now two declared independent candidates for the 76th Assembly District: incumbent AM Rebecca Seawright, and Patrick Bobilin
 - i. Under these circumstances, it is appropriate to conduct a full membership endorsement vote, and to invite the candidates to speak
- b. Motion to invite Rebecca and Patrick to speak:
 - i. Motion carries, with 1 opposed
- c. Motion to also invite the Republican candidate to speak:
 - i. Motion fails, with 5 in favor and 6 opposed

4. Upcoming Meeting Agendas

- a. July meeting:
 - i. State Assembly endorsement vote
 - ii. Committee and working group updates
- b. August event:

- i. While we usually do not have a formal event, as we have the BBQ instead, we will host a Zoom cocktail hour this year
- c. September meeting:
 - i. Historically, this meeting is held on Roosevelt Island
 - 1. In that tradition, we will host a Zoom meeting that will focus on RI issues, and will include RI speakers
 - 2. We will also reach out to an RI community group to co-sponsor the event

5. Membership

- a. Despite active participation in our meetings and working groups, our membership is appreciably below levels of recent years (around 90, vs. 130)
 - i. The difference is easy to explain: we receive huge surges in sign-ups at our in-person events and fundraisers
- b. Marina Philips, on behalf of our Outreach Committee, presented some ideas for bolstering membership, including:
 - i. Helping clean up the park, in FFDC t-shirts to increase visibility
 - ii. Selling FFDC swag (t-shirts, sweatshirts, buttons, etc.)
 - 1. Motion to investigate the practicalities of ordering and selling FFDC swag – carries unanimously
- c. Jerry will send a reminder to everyone who would otherwise be eligible to vote at the upcoming meeting to pay their membership fees

6. Adjourn