

**Four Freedoms Democratic Club
General Meeting
Thursday, November 18, 2021
7pm**

Jerry opening remarks

- Welcome to the annual club meeting
- Slight word from our sponsor: purchase an FFDC sweatshirt or tshirt!
 - o \$35 for sweatshirt, \$15 for tshirt
 - o Union made!
- Tonight we are engaged in one of our most important processes: electing our board for next year
- We've reserved time for the end to breakout into small groups to talk about what they would like to see us take on next year

Amendment to the Constitution

- The idea behind this: the constitution as drafted only permits amendments at the annual meeting
- The board feels it would be in the club's interest to amend this so a constitutional amendment can be brought throughout the year
- Amendments:
 - o Distribution of the proposed amendment can be before any meeting, not just before the annual meeting
- Motion//seconded
- Debate:
 - o Want to clarify what it means to be present at the meeting- can that include virtually present? → we believe yes
 - o A constitution is a set document and we shouldn't be able to change it every month
 - o We need 2/3 vote of attending members so it's not changing it every month
- Debate closed
- Voice vote
 - o One opposed
- **Amendment passes**

Election of 2022 Officers

- Officers all ran unopposed, so they are automatically elected
 - o But they will introduce themselves!
 - o President: Jerry, lawyer, involved with FFDC since founding
 - o Vice President: Frank Wilkenson, originally from Philly
 - o Treasurer: John Bartos
 - o Corresponding Secretary: Jordan Stein, if you want something in the newsletter, let him know! SteinJ13@gmail.com
 - o Recording Secretary: Kit Morrison, joined FFDC last year during the pandemic!

Election of 2022 Board

- Board election is contested. 13 people running for 8 open positions
- Please note you do not rank your choices!
- Circle up to 8 people on your ballot
- For those voting online, we are using Opa vote
 - o A ballot has been sent to everyone who is our membership list
- If you're a new member, you may have noticed you weren't handed a ballot
 - o You must be a dues-paying member for 90 days and have attended 2 meetings
- Want to recognize two board members who have chosen not to re-run: Jeremy Berman and Marina Phillips
- Order of speakers:
 - o Flor
 - o Ronnie W (not present)
 - o Erica V
 - o Gabriel P
 - o Ruth H
 - o John W
 - o Matt L
 - o Amy S
 - o Debra F
 - o Madeline P
 - o Ben A
 - o Nancy L
 - o Dov G
- Discussion of candidates

Redistricting Resolution

- Introduced by: John Wagner
- Reso calls on:
 - o Local gov to work with national gov to prevent gerrymandering
 - o NY state leg to reject independent redistricting commission plan and substitute with their own plan to maximize democratic representation
- If it's passed, they'll bring it to our state reps
- Motion//seconded
- Debate:
 - o We should remove the word "reluctantly"
 - o NY Times is opposed to this, and for good reason
 - o We could lose this country in the next 2 elections; we can pick up 5 seats in NY that could be the difference of having a country we want to live in in 4 years or not. These are desperate times, they call for desperate measures.
 - o Spoken with some of the elected officials, Sen. Krueger said she'll lose 20k constituents, AM Seawright will lose 6k if they make more than 63 Senate districts. According to them, the IRC plan will go to the state leg anyway

- Look at what the Republicans are doing in other states and the members their gerrymandering will do: get rid of members of color and women. We need to counteract it in NY if we want to see a more diverse legislature.
- If we were to have this conversation several years ago, many of us would've called for an independent commission. Now we've seen the results of such a thing and that has shown a complete and total example of failure- they did not produce recommendations, instead they produced 2 diverging plans. This was a total waste of time and money and a failure of leadership. This reso shows the right strategy at the right time.
- Motion to amend the resolution to remove the word "reluctantly"//seconded
 - Debate:
 - The author of the reso supports
 - Voice vote
 - Two opposed
 - Motion passes
- Voice vote:
 - One opposed
- Stylistic changes will be presented to the committee before we send it to our reps

District Leader Announcement: Ben Wetzler

- We are doing a canvass in Jersey City this weekend for a runoff
- Meet at Q stop on 86th and 2nd at 12:45pm, knock on some doors, and come back in the evening
- Sign up link was on the email that was sent out today

District Leader Announcement: Alex Bores

- At the Roosevelt Island meeting we talked about getting the tram and busses to Roosevelt Island on google maps
- It's not there yet, but Kim and AM Seawright have helped set up meetings to get this done
- We were able to see a preview of what it would look like
- Question: Will this have live tracking?
 - It's possible, but for the first version it will not

Holiday Party: December 14th from 6pm to 8pm at Ryan's Daughter

Instead of doing breakout time, we will be using member time to share what we want to focus on

- Jane Lynberg: small group of people looking to clean up the vacant lot on the SW corner on 78th and 1st.
 - Facebook page: UES Greenspace Now
 - Email: ues.greenspace@gmail.com
 - Looking for our support and participation

- We know this is private property, but the community is not getting anything in return
- Kim and Alex have been really helpful already
- A community board member who chairs the environmental committee chimed in to say that this corner has been discussed—it's been 12 years!
 - We should go beyond cleaning it up and say they shouldn't be destroying buildings without a plan of what comes next

Election results for at-large board members:

- Matt L
- Amy S
- Flor E
- Gabe P
- Ruth H
- Debra F
- John W
- Ben A