

PLACE: 310 GREENWICH ST. COMMUNITY ROOM

TIME: 6:30PM

PRESENT: Sean Sweeney, David Reck, Jean Grillo, Adam Silvera, Linda Belfer, Jim Stratton, Diane Stein, Jeanne Wilcke, Beth Mary Hall, Elliot Silber, Gayle Fried, Julie Nadel, Andy Neale, Marc Ameruso, Arthur Gregory, Pat Moore, Peter Gleason, Allan Horland, Harold Donahue, Robert Healey, Nicole Ferree, Alan Schulkin, Anne Compocchia, Michael Katz, Paul Greenfield, Bo Riccobono, Nancy Bannon, David Cohen.

Announcements:

District Leader Jean Grillo said she was looking for poll site workers, especially when the new electronic voting machines are installed. Anyone who is interested should contact her.

She also announced that the Department of Transportation (DOT) had appeared before Community Board 1 to discuss opening up part of City Hall Park to bicycles. Community Board 1 had passed a resolution that withheld their support, but the DOT went ahead with its plan anyway. On Thursday, July 9, 2008 at 1:00 PM, there was going to be a rally starting at the northern end of City Hall Park and going to the steps of City Hall. The purpose of the rally would depend on the DOT's response to a request for a meeting.

A motion was passed that the DID write a resolution about the bicycle lanes.

Judges:

Governor Paterson appointed Judge Kornreich to the Supreme Court, and she had to resign from the Civil Court, creating a vacancy there. This process occurred too late for the candidates for that seat to get their names on the club's petition. Three candidates were reported out of the screening panel, and two of them were present tonight: Michael Katz and Nancy Bannon.

Michael Katz and Nancy Bannon each made their campaign presentations before the club. Afterwards there was a discussion about whether the club could endorse one of the candidates that night. According to the bylaws, the club has the right to endorse if there is a quorum and if the vote is unanimous. Someone said that members have to be informed about it ten days before the meeting. The District Leaders had endorsed Michael Katz, but they had received information packets before they had their meeting. The club decided not to endorse a candidate for this position.

David Cohen spoke next as a friend of the club, even though he is not a judicial candidate.

There was a discussion of by-laws:

The issue of term limits was discussed.

Arguments in favor of term limits were that other clubs, such as the VID had a 2 year service term, it was important to avoid a fiefdom, people would be able to rotate terms,

there would be more of a shared knowledge, and in certain circumstances, such as the Community Board, the City Charter puts all power in the Chair.

Arguments against term limits included the history of Ron Lauder pushing for them for his own political purposes, the Community Boards do not have a secret ballot – when you have a secret ballot, term limits are not necessary, it is hard to find replacements, it is undemocratic, you lose your core group. In New York City, the Mayor has most of the power and the City Council is in tatters.

The District Leaders were asked if term limits would consider term limits as well. It was brought up that these were elected positions and part of a different process.

There was a motion to table the issue for now. There were 16 in favor, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

The club was about to discuss the second issue the size and duties of Executive Committee members, when another issue came up before this was addressed.

Julie Nadel received a letter from Connie Fishman, President of the Hudson River Park Trust, stating that she would not be able to be an officer of the DID while serving on a State Board. Therefore she chose to resign as DID Treasurer.

The club agreed to discuss the Constitution at the next meeting.

Adam Silvera offered to act as Interim Treasurer until a new Treasurer was elected.

A motion was made to have nominations at the September meeting and elections at the October meeting. There were 22 in favor and 1 opposed.

Next there was a discussion about the size of the Executive Committee. The bylaws have a minimum number, but no maximum. There was a recommendation to have 12 members, and someone suggested having an odd number in order to avoid a tie. Historically, the 5 Club Officers and 4 District Leaders, 3 members at large and 2 past presidents were on the committee, which brought it up to 14 members.

A motion was made to limit the number of Executive Committee members to 15. There were 12 in favor and 6 opposed.

Nominations for the 3 members at large were:

Elliot Silber

Andy Neale

Arthur Gregory

The nominations were passed unanimously, so the motion carried.

Daniel Squadron, candidate for State Senator, was introduced, but declined to speak due to the length of the agenda.

An announcement was made that there was going to be a party given by Daniel Squadron to thank his supporters on Thursday, July 10, 2008 from 8-10 PM at B4 at 50 New Street, between Beaver and Exchange Place.

There was a discussion of governance and oversight of DID's web page. Ian Dutton had set it up 2 years ago and the club was told he was ratcheting down his activities. Ian had also set up a list serve for 15 club members. David Reck had a more comprehensive list server.

Andy Neale said he has done this type of thing for another group. The club agreed to discuss this with Andy Neale.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Stein on September 3, 2008.