VID General Meeting June 11, 2026

President Liz Cohen opened the meeting and announced the agenda, which was unanimously adopted.

Hanna Bloomquist from Voter Protection spoke first. She narrated a slideshow with a history of the organization, voter education, reaching New Yorkers, registering to vote, having a plan to vote, and poll site information. We were given a Voter Protection hotline. Q & A followed.

Next was Otti from the Dan Goldman campaign. She described over 300,000 calls and text messages to voters and over 20 labor endorsements. There will be a rally Saturday in an early GOTV effort at City Hall Park, and volunteers are requested.

Ryan, campaign manager from the Carl Wilson campaign, now spoke. Of the three original candidates, only one serious opponent remains, although all are still on the ballot. He will caucus with DID on Saturday and appear in Chelsea on Saturday and Sunday. He requested volunteers to contact him or DID. The issues are affordable housing, artist housing, and transportation.

Grace Lee showed up in person to thank everyone for showing up every weekend at Abingdon Square—it has made a huge difference. She's closing out the persuasive part of the campaign and is now concentrating on getting voters to the polls. She described 41,000 phone calls and 31,000 doors knocked. She described a great organization and endorsements from Tish James, Kathy Hochul, Harvey Epstein, and John Liu. She'll be working eight early voting sites, and invited people to join her. Ten thousand voters have said they're voting for her and she described lots of momentum and enthusiasm. She also supports restrictions on ICE: the right to sue, no masks, no arrests at schools, churches, polls, or hospitals, and no formal agreements between local law enforcement and ICE. She has a bill to set limits on PFAs in NYS water, which she is optimistic will pass in bipartisan fashion. She is also concerned about health coverage and rent affordability. And she's proposing a possible Watch Party—she will keep us informed.

Aaron Gittelman briefly appeared for Tom Di Napoli. He described the campaign for NY 12, and thanked the club for its support. The campaign is in its final stretch, with over 2,000 doors knocked and 45,000 voters reached, with many undecided. This is the first time the seat has been open in 34 years. He is looking forward to seeing us at the early voting sites. When asked, he said Tom had changed his position on charter schools and wants to finance public schools.

Liz gave a brief President's Report, thanking everyone and she said they were spending lots of hours working on VID programming.

Now Tony Hoffmann reported for the Campaign Committee. He described a 32,000-piece mailing reaching all the single prime voters in the district—those who voted once in the last four primaries. It was a significantly larger mailing but cost us less than it would normally;

everyone should receive it by tomorrow. Dan Palmisano is covering staffing for the polls for early voting and Primary Day—once or two hours will make a difference. Dan and Melissa Carty will cover the east side, and we'll need more people at Abingdon Square. (He received three volunteers.).

In November, Vote Blue will supply buses, keeping closer to NYC this time—to sites in New Jersey, Long Island, and the Hudson Valley. Liz advised to reach out and we'll get you involved.

Nat Johnson reported for the Environmental Committee. Starting June 1, small residential buildings must use NYC's official bins for trash—by June 25, this must be complete. In City Council there is a bill for removal of solid waste and recyclables and reducing distribution of single-use items at street activities, sponsored by James Gennaro and Harvey Epstein. There will be a Big Reuse Call Campaign—they are asking you to call your Council members between June 18th and 24th and urge them to continue to fund the NYC Community Compost Network , Community Composting Advocacy FY 27. NRDC launched its "Microplastics Are Micromonsters" campaign to raise awareness of microplastics growing health risks and offer ways to reduce everyday exposure.

The Champlain Hudson Power Express is bringing hydropower to the city, but amid years of drought, can Canada spare the clean electricity? New York has made $18M available for local climate projects, which can also allow expansion of New York's Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program.

Several bills have passed and are awaiting the Governor's signature: the Food Date Labeling Act, standardizing food date labels; the Solar Up Now New York (SUNNY) Act, allowing renters to have access to solar technology; Protecting PFAS Drinking Water Limits; and a One-Year Moratorium on Data Centers. The Governor and legislative leaders have significantly rolled back New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). This bill was designed to put us in a leadership role in environment, and the rollback puts us back, but EANY continues to work to keep New York on track to meet its climate and environmental justice commitments.

Other bills waiting for the Governor's signature are: Good Food Purchasing Act, PFAS Discharge Disclosure Act, Closing the Tropical Hardwood Loophole, Healthy Homes Right to Know Act, Excess Food Act Extender, and Tracking Extreme Heat Deaths. Bills that did not pass include: Lead Pipe Replacement Act, Beauty Justice Act, PFAS Ban in Consumer Projects, and the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA). The last bill died after a blitz by lobbyists with ties to Carl Heastie.

Nat exhorted people to join 350Brooklyn in the 2026 Mermaid Parade, for offshore wind energy, on June 20th in Coney Island. Nat ended with a plea to not endorse Governor Hochul because of her climate policies, which are alienating both environmentalists and fossil fuel supporters.

David Siffert, VID member, filled us in on their campaign for the Assembly, saying they were grateful for our support, and couldn't do it without us. They said things were going really well,

with countless doors knocked, many conversations with voters, and trips to older adult centers. They're going to win, but they need help—there are seven early voting sites and 26 poll sites in the district, and they need two people at each site, just two hours here and there. The mailer was great, and they feel people responding. Only twelve days before the election!

For Legislative Affairs, David said the last five days of the legislative session, not much had gotten done, and it was not a good way to run a government, especially not for a state this size.

Now Jonathan Geballe spoke for the Housing Committee. He spoke on the Tony Da Polito Center, saying it has been empty for a long time. The city had done an engineering report saying it could be put back in operation and was repairable. Sommer Omar has discovered that $150M had been set aside for this purpose, but it doesn't appear in the budget and no one knows where it is. On Monday the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Planning, Leila Bozorg, will give a report on the mayor's housing plan called Block by Block: The Housing Plan for a New Era, and Jonathan will be there.

Carol Yost, for the Healthcare Committee, said she has no update, but someone asked her about copay reimbursements a couple of meetings ago, and she wanted to know who that was so she can get back.

Judith Jacobson reported on the upcoming Gala, saying the usual venue, Rafele's, was undergoing renovations and would not be available for the Gala. She asked for a replacement venue and received a couple of suggestions. It's very hard to find a place that can accommodate the crowd. Tony volunteered that Irene Kaufman had designed the fliers and evites.

Under New Business:

Jonathan reminded us that the memorial for Rose James, longtime VID member, would be on Saturday, 6/20, at Judson Church. The info will appear in the Dispatch.

Irene reminded everyone that she will be hosting a phone bank for David at her house on the 22nd.

Liz said anyone who has an item for the Dispatch should get it to Remy Kothe by Sunday.

David remembered that there will be a protest at Washington Square Park on Saturday, objecting to closing entrances to the park. Also on Saturday he they will be doing a GOTV rally at Christopher Park with speakers, and Tony will speak.

The meeting was adjourned.