**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, MAY 13, 2020 BY ZOOM**

Present: Ira Bigeleisen, Courtney Dastis-Galvin, Eric Dinowitz, Delores Dixon, Michael Friedman, Paul Ellis, Bruce Feld, Martin Galvin, Michael Heller, Patrick Hill, Dan Johnson, Helen Krim, Randi Martos, Ivan Nedds, Heidi Schwartz, Aaron Stayman, Kate Theobald, and Robin Weinstein. Guests: Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, Council Member Andrew Cohen

President Michael Heller called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM; a quorum was present. He reported that Eleanor Oliff had requested to be removed from the Executive Committee until we are again able to meet in person. She is experiencing computer difficulties and unable to join the Zoom meetings.

**June 23 Primary**

District Leader Eric Dinowitz reported that there will be a primary for all contested races. Candidates for Congress, State Assembly, State Senate, District Leaders, State Committee Members, and Civil Court Judges will be on the ballot. Whether there will be a Democratic primary for President is being adjudicated. District Leaders Eric and Randi Martos and State Committee Members William Weitz and Helen Morik were among those who asked the Governor to distribute requests for absentee ballots to all registered voters, and he agreed.

**How will we campaign with social distancing?**

Michael Heller, raised this question next. The executive committee members present concluded that there was too much fear of the virus to stuff flyers under doors. Phone calls are a viable method, and will require many volunteers. Mike will send an email to the club membership to recruit volunteers. Assemblyman Dinowitz advised that there are about 10,000 constituents in the 81st Assembly District, and about 7,000 have phones. There was discussion about how to divide the list among volunteers and whether or not we could take advantage of Congressman Engel’s database. However, the club is not allowed to spend money for a candidate, although we might be able to campaign for all the club’s endorsed candidates if it didn’t involve campaign expenses. Mike, with the committee’s agreement, appointed a subcommittee to investigate how we can legally campaign for our endorsed candidates. Michael Heller, Delores Dixon, Eric Dinowitz, Aaron Stayman and Dan Johnson will serve on the subcommittee.

**Plan for the next Club Membership Meeting**

The next membership meeting will be on Wednesday, May 27. The committee agreed that the focus should be on the June 23 primary election. Aaron Stayman agreed to present a tutorial on how to use social media and phone banking, using the site of some neutral candidate to help us campaign for our endorsed candidates. We agreed that while phone banking, callers could also answer constituent questions about how to fill out the absentee ballot.

**Announcements**

Recording Secretary Helen Krim announced that she is organizing a Town Hall on the Bronx and Covid-19 on May 28 from 3:30 to 5 PM. The program will emphasize what we need to do to prepare for the anticipated second wave of the pandemic in the fall, the hurricane season, and other disasters that may strike in the future. To attend, please register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/all-bronx-healthcare-forum-tickets-104232873330>

For security reasons, only people who have registered will receive the Zoom link to join the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.