

## Rise and Resist Meeting Notes October 9, 2018

Group contact info:

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Facilitators: Ken, Kellen Notetaker: Livvie

First Meeting at The Peoples Forum! 320 West 37<sup>th</sup> Street

Introduction.

Philip: Announced he & Andy are going to a TPF orientation on Friday, will report back. He believes that new location will enhance membership. 150 new members in the past 6 months. TPF is a grassroots organization working to unite poor and working class people to achieve social justice & we get to partner with them. Ciara Taylor, membership manager: “We’re not just a rental space, we’re building community.” Coffee shop open in 2 weeks.

Organizations and artists can become members (\$50 annually), which allows space rental: classrooms, etc. Offer classes ([peoplesforum.org](http://peoplesforum.org)). Free or sliding scale for everything. Meetings over 4 people should rent a classroom instead of meeting in café.

Funded by anonymous donor. No restrictions as long as furthering the struggles of the poor and dispossessed.

TPF has: Jumbotron, AC, giant whiteboard, 3 mikes, AV technician.

November: co-working space for up to 4 people from each organization. M-F, 9-5.

### **REPORT BACKS**

**Elevator Action Committee:** October 5 Courthouse rally in support of Center for the Independent Disabled NY (CIDNY) lawsuit against MTA. 3<sup>rd</sup> appearance in front of Judge Shlomo Hegler who invited them into the courtroom after rally, but sent them away to come back with a plan. MTA is tackling 50 broken elevators. Andy Byford (head of MTA) supports coalition requests.

Endorsement request: October 30, 9:00 am, Coalition (CIDNY, Peoples MTA, RaR) will do another rally. Asking floor for endorsement.

**Reclaim Pride:** Will hold separate parade Sunday June 30, 2019 after the Saturday Heritage of Pride, taking cues for route from HOP. Working with LGBT ambassador in Mayor's office. Theme will be global human rights, patterned on Women's March. Event page is up – google it. Reclaim Pride Meeting Oct 10 at 7:00 TPF.

THE ASK: \$50 to cover Reclaim Pride membership in TPF. MOTION CARRIED.

### **Recruitment at Marc Ribot concert**

Ribot invited RaR to table at the launch party for his Songs of Resistance album. Took names, \$83 in donations. (Alvin and Wendy tabled at a September 25 concert also.) Cherie is the connection between Elections and Ribot – wants to be active in canvassing.

### **Kavanagh actions in DC**

Shout out to all women of courage! Katrina: whistle action, Center for Popular Democracy, Housing Works, Ultra Violet, Women's March, Code Pink, Planned Parenthood were there. Many small actions (visiting senators' offices) between bigger "bus" actions. More actions to come! Mary Hawkins: First timer, startled at all the arrests. "A joyous protest." Diane: will post her photos on FB. Shout out to Laurie Arbeiter's RaR signage – over 800 signs. 300 arrests on Thursday alone in Hart Building, thousands of support people. Laurie A: maintain vigilance at Supreme Court, more direct action required, but the object is not to be arrested!

**Collect Rent - \$125 rent now.**

**Job descriptions** for Notes, Open, Close, Slides to be posted online.

### **NEW ACTIONS, UPDATES**

**ERT:** need to re-think whether ERT should expand authority to financial decisions. Subject came up because ERT denied request for \$ from Katrina for hotel room in DC to store signs and backpacks. Questions: how to handle expenses for traveling activists?

THE ASK: Reimburse Ivy for hotel. \$150 now. MOTION CARRIED.

**ELECTIONS:** announced postcard parties, email list, volunteer opportunities.

**IMMIGRATION:** meeting to plan immigration actions for Nov. 1 and 2. Meeting is Oct. 10, 6:00. Judson Church, 239 Thompson Street.

THE ASK: Endorsement of tabling action in Sunnyside with Mel. Thursday October 18, 7-9 pm. MOTION PASSED.

**Report back on TPS rally.** Temporary Protective Status was put in place to protect people leaving grave danger. Might be undone, people will be left unprotected.

**ANDREW KEARSE PETITION** Black Lives matter wants 10,000 electronic signatures to pressure Underwood and Tish James (pre-emptively) to release dash cam footage of Kears death in Schenectady police car.

THE ASK: Endorse the Kears petition. MOTION PASSED.

**FINANCE:** \$250 collected for rent. Buttons are not sold, but donations are accepted in exchange for them, so as not to have to pay sales tax.

**COMMS:** Comms happy to supply merch for any and all events. Comms needs help. Comms (Mary Hawkins) wants to make enamel pins for Read and Resist for eventual sale to bookstores.

**VIDEO SCREENING:** Neillan Baptiste's interview with Patricia Okoumou.