

11.20.2018 RAR Meeting Minutes

Facilitators: Elka, Livvie

Notetaker: Jody

Group contact information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY](https://twitter.com/RiseandResistNY)
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/
- General email: info@riseandresist.org
- Press email: media@riseandresist.org
- Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm at the People's Forum

Meeting Introduction

- Step up / step back; any working law enforcement? (none responded); any working journalists? (none responded); put your phones away; put your hand up, introduce yourself with preferred pronouns
- Introduce Elizabeth, ASL interpreter
- Introduce Greeter, Katrina
- Reading of Mission Statement

Report back on July 4 Court Case (Livvie, Jamie, Stu)

- Two planned actions and 1 unplanned action on July 4th
- T-shirt banner and banner drop were planned actions
- Weren't sure how all would be handled
- 7 people arrested as they tried to walk away from the banner
- Originally given tickets with \$135 fine; unclear what ticket was for as the tickets said they were for being in an area that was closed to the public and they weren't
- Had a public defender who got them a deferred prosecution
- They have to appear in 3 months; if they don't do anything wrong between now and then, it's dropped; if they do something wrong they just start over
- Probably fine as long as they don't get arrested in National Parks; they probably won't check State arrests
- Q: What's going on with Patricia's case? A: She has a trial date on December 17th

Rent Collection

Andrew's Law (Elka)

- Follow up on Hang up your Badge, planted a tree in May in the Bronx
- Andrew Kearsse died in a police car asking for medical attention

- There was a Grand Jury and a statement from AG Underwood that there was enough evidence and that there was also some issues with police training
- Andrew Kearse Act is already being written right now; the language of the act will be consistent with what the group has been working on
- Elka proposed that the Act include something to assist deaf people in custody per what Christina spoke about a couple of weeks ago
- It's on its way to Albany
- If you're interested in working on this, stay and talk to Elka after the meeting
- Q: Is there a particular legislator working on this? A: Yes, but Elka doesn't remember who. She will find out.
- There's a video but video isn't working right now

Action Strategy Meeting report back (Maryellen)

- Last Saturday
- Sent out a couple of self assessment surveys so people could identify which team role they naturally fit into - so people can try to achieve a nice composition of teams
- Broke up into 4 different groups and everyone had a photo - they lived in the picture - lots to explore and work together with
- Reasoning was negotiation and critical thinking skills, problem solving
- Barriers to critical thinking
- Strategic Plan - our strength is the tactics, but we need to work on what our target audience is
- Goal and objectives are what we focused on in the meeting
- Goal - one sentence description
- Objectives - you want to have at least three and not more than five - takes a lot of work and time to create objectives
 - Do the objectives support the goal
 - Perhaps you have multiple goals
- Q: Do you have any of this written out? A: Yes, I have a powerpoint, also happy to sit down with people or groups and work through it
- Comment: I had a great time - it was a number of hours well spent
- Comment: You repeated several times that setting the objectives was difficult and painful - can you expand on that? A: Sure - it's hard to push past the ping pong balls being thrown at us every day. It's also not in a silo - sometimes different groups objectives or goals will overlap.
- If you want the powerpoint, ask Maryellen for it, but it's also just something to work through with Maryellen.

New Actions

Elevator Action Group (Jennifer)

- People are approaching EAG daily asking them to participate in their rallies and actions
- Committed to making the NYC subways accessible

- Two action coming up -
- Fare Hike - Tuesday, November 27
 - MTA is holding open houses in every borough to discuss the fare hike
 - EAG position is no fair hike until everyone can ride the subway
 - 5 pm - Lexington and 23rd St - Baruch College
 - Rally at 4 pm
 - In coalition with a few different groups
 - Two proposals on the table - one to raise to \$3 per ride, and other to raise weekly and monthly
 - Article in the Guardian talks about reduction in service alongside fare hike
 - We want them to clean up their house before they ask for more money
 - Q: Has anyone thought about having actions to the Governor and State Senate? It's all budget-related
 - A: We're working on getting as much press coverage as possible. Working with other group to get some Albany lobby days
 - Comment: fare hike with taxis to fund MTA was proposed - perhaps reach out to the Taxi Alliance. \$2.50 base fare for taxis, \$2.75 for Uber and Lyft below 96th Street in Manhattan.
 - Q: Years ago there was talk of combining the MTA and TBTA because the TBTA was always running at a surplus and the MTA was always running at a deficit. There's also been talk of dismantling all of these authorities. Has any of that come up recently?
 - A: We haven't discussed any of that. Cuomo has said the MTA is just a made up entity. Those are bigger discussions
 - Comment: I think the additional charges on the taxis are part of the congestion pricing plans to fund the Andy Byford plan. There's a cross issue of how congestion pricing will affect people with disabilities. People are concerned that it will make their lives more complicated and their ability to get around. In other cities, people with disabilities are exempted from congestion pricing.
 - Comment: This is about the budget- I've always asked myself why disabilities are always last - so much money for the general population and the rest of us are last. It should all be done at the same time. It's been an ongoing problem and it hasn't changed. When I ask that question, they tell me I need to adjust to the able world - I'm the one who's not able to adjust. The ADA is not strong enough to support us - it needs more strength.
 - Coalitioning with other groups - another one that's working on congestion pricing but all they can talk about is congestion pricing. It's been disappointing.
 - **VOTE: RAR to endorse rally before the fare hike hearing at 4 pm on Tuesday at Baruch College**
 - **Unanimous endorsement**
- **Transit Center Rally on Thursday, November 29th at 11 am - 25th St and 8th Ave**
 - Penn South Seniors and AARP will join Transit Center

- Call on Albany to fund Fast Forward (Andy Byford plan) using new sources of revenue including congestion pricing
- Where the Penn South Seniors program is
- Q: Wondering why they chose 25th St - 23rd St is the station that's key to get an elevator
- A: It's in front of the Penn South residence
- About a dozen people thought they could go
- **VOTE: To endorse**
- **Vote passes**

Wall Street Tree Lighting (Jamie, Stu)

- Tree Lighting in front of the NY Stock Exchange
- It's an accessible event unlike the Rockefeller Tree lighting
- Closing bell at 4 pm; lighting at 5 pm
- Thursday, November 29th at 4:30 pm-6 pm - Wall Street and Broad Street
- Bringing our lights to their tree lighting - RESIST and ABOLISH ICE light up signs
- Refugees seeking asylum in the US and it's the holiday season
- Corporations that are complicit that are contractors or subcontractors to ICE
- Corporate profiteering
- Will highlight some of those corporations and tie it into welcoming people who are seeking asylum
- Wall Street is doing a tree lighting while all of this is going on - we need to be making a statement
- Objective is about Abolish ICE - we want to keep up the pressure - we need to talk about the complicity of Wall Street
- Will gather either at Federal Hall or another building nearby to be visible
- Planning to not chant - since there will be kids and other things
- Just a silent reminder of what's going on
- **VOTE to sponsor this action**
- **Passed unanimously**
- Poster party Wednesday, November 28 at 6 pm - location TBD

Video for Andrew's Law shown

- Andrew's Act will be going through the State Senate - would be good to connect with the Elections Group to work on that
- Elections welcomes that- come to Elections
- There will be a link on the RAR facebook on the video where people can sign up to get involved

Women's March (Jim)

- List of accessibility and disability demands to go to the NY Women's March
- Identity inclusion
- Appealing to other groups to sign on as well - but need Rise and Resist to sign on first

- List of demands - proposing to be sent to the Women's Alliance in the name of Rise and Resist
 1. That the Women's Alliance appoints a person from the disability activist community to serve on their board. This person should be openly disabled and have a history of working with the the community.
 2. That the march will have an accessibility team (both abled and disabled). This team should include at least one person whose name, telephone number, and email is readily available. Some accessibility needs for the march:
 - a. The route be published a month ahead of time in a size that's readable
 - b. That the route map include all accessible subway stations clearly marked
 - c. That route map include bus routes to get to the march
 - d. That the march arrange with the MTA to have a drop off/pick up space for Access-a-Ride
 - e. That the stage be wheelchair accessible
 - f. That the rally include at least three speakers from the community
 - g. That disabled marchers not be limited to having to enter the front with only ONE friend allowed
 - h. That the rally have ASL translators AND captioning
 - i. That the March make their website ADA compliant and include copy specific to disability justice issues
 - j. That the march include stage seating
 - k. That the march publish subway closures and alternative routes the Friday before the event (They are usually posted by Thursday)
 - l. That the march request MTA workers to be posted in the relevant subway stops (they did d and l for the disability march).
 3. That the Women's March Alliance Board, President and accessibility team host a town hall with the New York Police Department in order to hear the concerns of the disability community.
 4. That the March have marshals.
- Q: How many speakers are there scheduled?
- A: I don't know, but they have speakers for quite a while
- Comment - the march is 2 months away - how do we get this done in such a short time?
- A: We'd like to send this out and see how they respond. Some of these demands they should have already done. Some of these could be done in a short period of time. The important part is for them to hear us asking for these things.
- Comment: We asked them for some of these things just after the last march. We asked her to add a disabled board member and sent her a list of potential candidates. She declined. They have blocked me.
- Q: There are the demands - is there an "or else"?
- A: We're not going to ask people to boycott at this point. We can talk about what we want to do if they don't respond.
- Comment: We can also contact the NYC Commission on Human Rights

- Q: Are there other people within the disability community who are working on this with you? If there are other people who can reach out to them so it's not just one person
- A: Best thing would be to get this sponsored and then get other groups to sign on
- Comment: I think we should endorse this list of demands. It's a good list. I don't see any harm in sending them this list. If another group brought this list to us, we would just say yes.
- Comment: it might be smart to interview each of the people who approaches the march organizers and then it becomes press worthy
- Comment: I've been involved with this for 3 years and I know a lot of marches fail in these respects. What bothers me is that this is the Women's March, and I'm a woman, but this march should be the able-bodied women's march. This march is important to a lot of people and sets a precedent for NY liberalism.
- Comment: these are good guidelines as we're thinking about Reclaim Pride and Stonewall 50. I don't understand point g "That disabled marcher not be limited to having to enter the front with only ONE friend allowed".
- A: We should rephrase to something clearer
- Comment: As a woman, I completely understand Jennifer's comments. I'm a passing disabled person - if you look at me, you don't see my disability. I identify as a woman first and deaf second. I have more anonymity. To say "all women" and not represent us, I completely understand.
- Q: Will this be sent with the prefacing paragraph?
- A: It can be rewritten - it needs something like that.
- **VOTE: to send these demands out from Rise and Resist**
- **Passes unanimously**

Immigration (Donna, Jody, Wendy)

- November 8th Trump announced new policy to deny asylum to those who enter
- Proposed changes to Public Charge rule
 - Currently you can be denied a Green Card if you are likely to become a public charge (a person who is likely to become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence); this is determined by whether you have been institutionalized for a period of time and/or if you've received cash assistance from the government
 - Proposed change - a public charge is an immigrant who receives one or more public benefits
 - Non-emergency Medicaid, SNAP, Medicare Part D or Housing Assistance
 - A variety of factors will be weighted positively or negatively in making a determination
 - Open to comment between now and December 10th
 - Goal is to get 100,000 comments - currently there are 60,000+
 - Make comments, get your Thanksgiving table to make comments
 - Best websites to comment through (and get more info)
 - OurAmericanStory.us
 - ProtectingImmigrantFamilies.org

- They have boilerplate but make your comments unique and personal - tell personal stories
- Comment: my neighbors are considering giving up and leaving the country over this; this is so important
- This is really insidious - goal is to destabilize communities - worse (and more likely) than rescinding birthright citizenship
- Report backs - report back after talk back at play at BMCC
- Engaged students in actions and had a table there
- Think about working with artists - get there with materials and info

Cosecha March in Washington Square last Saturday

- Rude Mechanicals were there
- Banner "We are with you" and same in Spanish
- Small group
- March to Washington Square

Vivian Farmery is in Tijuana and posting on Facebook

Visitors from California

- Campaigned for Beto
- Beto campaign messed up on helping people with disabilities get to the polls
- Campaigns could use help in those areas
- Texas has curbside voting
- ACLU has great fact sheet on website about voter intimidation

Calendar Fundraiser (Diane, Dann)

- We have 3 calendars left from the first run
- \$20 each
- Will be ordering more and setting it up on the webpage

Finance (Susan)

- Collected \$144 tonight
- \$12,900 net worth
- We have to spend the AJ Muste grant of \$3000 by June 30th. \$300 has been spent so far. Submit receipts for reimbursements

Business announcement (Jamie)

- Christmas and New Year's are on Tuesdays this year
- This building is closed both days
- Three week gap in the general meetings
- There is the ERT if needed during that time
- Actions should be having some meetings during that period
- Need to take a vote to make sure it's okay to take all that time off

- Options: 3 weeks without meeting OR pick another weekday for a meeting in there - might interfere with committee meetings
- Q: What is the procedure for sending out emergency notices? Is it a text or an email?
- A: Comms will put it out everywhere they can - bar on website, text messages, facebook, twitter and email list
- **VOTE: to miss two weeks of meetings over Christmas and New Years**
- **Passes unanimously with a couple of abstentions**
- Comment: in the notice that goes out about these meetings being cancelled, can there be instructions on who to reach out in case of an emergency
- We need to have an annual meeting where we elect our board of directors - we need to schedule this outside of our regular meetings
 - Board will come back to us next week to set up this meeting in January
 - Jamie, Stu, Jay, Ivy and Martin are current board members
 - Are there term limits? Check by-laws

Amazon Protests (Andy)

- Deal brokered by Governor and Mayor
- Groundswell of opposition to Amazon at all and/or particulars of the deal
- Some of it happening in the legislative space and some of it in community organizing
- Do we want to join an anti-Amazon coalition
- Friday at 2 pm - Action Against Amazon Black Friday - at NY Public Library
- Outreach and leafleting
- Hosted by Amazons Against Amazon, Cosecha and Primed Out NYC
- On facebook
- Email media@riseandresist.org to find out what's going on

Non-Rise and Resist Announcements

- Queens United for Immigrant Rights - November 28, 5:20 pm
 - Bell Blvd at the West End LIRR Overpass
- Reclaim Pride - good meeting last week - having a Town Hall
 - December 5th at the People's Forum at 7 pm

Need people to sign up for meeting tasks for December - sign up when the meeting is over

Postcard Party for Mike Espy

- Dec 12 at 7 pm
- Address redacted
- Writing postcards for Georgia Secretary of State

Rise and Resist

