

President's Report

By Lorraine Zamora

What a difference a month makes.

On June 28, the day after “the debate,” I was wondering if Three Parks could sustain the cost of operating a 2024 presidential storefront, as it has traditionally done for many national elections. As you know, the storefront is operated by club volunteers and the cost is covered by donations and button contributions. Given the growing concern I was seeing among members regarding another Biden/Trump contest, plus the additional growing concern over Biden’s chance to win, I wasn’t sure we’d attract enough volunteers or interest in buttons to make it a financial success.

No doubt Biden did the right thing by stepping down and endorsing Kamala Harris as presidential nominee for the Democratic Party. If I admired him before, I do so even more now. His withdrawal from the race was not only the right thing to do, but brave beyond any understanding of what’s been expected of an incumbent presidential candidate. Fingers crossed that we will see a revered leader like Joe Biden soon again!

The proof of Biden’s decision is palpable:

- An all-time record of “millions” of dollars has been raised.
- Thousands and thousands of people have signed up to be campaign volunteers nationwide.
- Nearly every Democratic governor, congressperson, senator, teacher and taxi driver, from coast to coast, has gotten on board the Kamala Harris Express.

Suddenly, Democrats went from “little chance of winning” to “hey, we might actually pull this off!” The thought of Kamala Harris as President seemed to fix everything, including, I’m happy to say, the successful operation of a Three Parks presidential storefront on the Upper West Side. Now, I too am encouraged and full of energy to work for a successful Democratic win and hope all our members are, too. There’s no question in my mind that we will have the people power to staff a storefront; the board is working diligently to find affordable rental space for September-November 10, and has begun to plan our presidential campaign activities. Stay tune for further details on our website and in our eblasts.

(By the way, some years ago, Three Parks changed its bylaws to state that the club automatically endorses the Democratic nominee, so there is no

need to have a vote to endorse Harris and her designated VP.)

I want to thank Theresa Canter for her leadership in organizing the Three Parks picnic on July 24. Thanks also to those who “schlepped” everything down to the picnic spot and back up again, including Chuck Wall, Michael Stearns, Irene Shrier, Dan Cohen, Paul Froehlich, and Daniele Gerard. I know many others helped out, too. I regret I couldn't be there, but I have heard accolades from club members who attended.

This Sunday, August 4, from noon to 3:00 PM, Three Parks will host a table at the Broadway Street Fair, between 101-102 streets. Thanks to Dan Cohen for taking the lead and organizing. I hope to see you there. Meanwhile, keep cool and rest up for a busy fall. Thanks to all!