

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes
11/16/2022

Attendees:

Mary Dale	PO Ruben Marte (NYPD) *	Rick Roth
Jill Frasier	Bruce McInnes	Gib Veconi
Den Gordon	Diana Regan	Patti Veconi
Marc Gordon	Ed Regan	PO Khalida Wallen (NYPD) *
Robin Ketchum	Laurie Rosenfield	Stacey Weinstein

* guest

The meeting was held in-person at the home of Mary Dale and Richard Roth and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Patti Veconi, President, at 7:35 PM.

Guest Speakers: 77th Precinct Community Affairs Officers Khalida Wallen and Ruben Marte

The officers attend the meeting via Zoom and answered questions.

Motorized Bikes

Attendees asked questions about the proliferation of motorized bikes on the city streets, and emphasized how dangerous they are. Especially in the case of e-bikes on the narrow sidewalks of Park Place where construction is taking place when the bikes cannot access the street. The officers said they would pass this information along to the highway safety team as a top priority issue. Bruce McInnes asked if the NYPD publishes what is legal and what is not in a motorized bike. The officers replied requirements for registration and the legality of these bikes differ. This information can be found on the DOT website. (<https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/bicyclists/ebikes.shtml>)

Police and Prospect Park

A question was asked about the police presence in Prospect Park after an incident involving a woman walking a dog, which resulted in the death of the dog. The officers told us a suspect has been arrested.

Package theft

A question was asked about how to prevent package theft.

The officers recommended the following

- Having packages delivered inside of apartment buildings
- Using an Amazon Hub locker
- Having packages delivered to Walgreens (FedEx only)

Stacey Weinstein reported having a package stolen but stated she didn't report it. The officer said it is important to report a theft to the police so that they are aware of the scope of these crimes. They said to call 911 to report stolen packages.

Patti Veconi thanked Officers Wallen and Marte for attending our meeting.

The minutes from the October meeting were approved unanimously.

Water and Sewer Project Update

Marc Gordon reviewed progress of the water and sewer project.

Work is progressing rapidly on the lower Park Place block; work is ongoing halfway down the block already. Marc was informed the official schedule will not change but off the record they're hoping to finish the Vanderbilt to Underhill block by the end of January. Storage, however, will remain on the block and there is additional work to complete the project. Neighbors should be aware a moving van can be accommodated on the project streets by arranging with the Perfetto supervisor in advance.

Patti Veconi commented that if your water is shut off by the project team, open it slowly when it comes back on so you don't clog the pipes. It is also better to turn your own water off before the block shut off takes place.

Growing Our Community: Fall Cleanup Report

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Den Gordon reported the Fall Cleanup, held November 5th was a success. Fifteen bags of leaves were delivered to the Prospect Heights Community farm for mulching, and 1000 daffodil bulbs were planted on our blocks as part of the Fall Cleanup. There was an excellent turnout for the cleanup with many new faces participating.

Nourishing Our Community: Report on warm clothing initiative for CHIPS clients

Mark reported on the purchase of 17 cases of knit caps, gloves, scarves and boxer shorts along with thermal underwear to be donated to CHIPS for distribution at Thanksgiving. This will serve up to 225 people in need.

December Meeting & Holiday Caroling Plans

A motion that the December meeting will be a caroling party on our neighborhood streets was passed unanimously. Caroling will begin at 7:30 PM on December 21st and refreshments will be served at the home of Bruce McInnes and Christiana Dittmann. Patti Veconi will provide sheets of lyrics. Other details will be published later.

New business

Patti Veconi said she will postpone the start of the grants process until the January 2023 meeting.

The Drat Committee reported NYC Council Member Hudson will restart the Rat Task Force and this may be a way for us to move forward with our campaign to eradicate rats from our neighborhood.

Marc Gordon is organizing another bulk purchase of rat resistant trash bags.

There is also an effort to recruit team captains to monitor and keep our neighborhood storm drains open. They are sometimes blocked by leaves and trash. Volunteers are being sought for this effort.

There was a complaint that the Sanitation Department is not sweeping the upper block of Park Place regularly. This will be addressed by PPUABA in the New Year.

NYC will be holding public outreach meetings for community engagement regarding large-cap projects in area.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.