

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes

9/17/2025

Attendees:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Teddy Theoharis | Henry Gray | Jessica Marcus |
| Diana Regan | Marc Gordon | Mary Dale |
| Ed Regan | Gib Veconi | Robin Ketchum |
| Stacey Weinstein | Den Gordon | Jill Frasier |
| Rev. Kimberlee Auletta* | | |

*Guest

The meeting was held in-person at the home of Den and Marc Gordon, 302 Park Place and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Teddy Theoharis, President, at 7:37 PM.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Kimberlee Auletta of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles in Windsor Terrace joined the meeting via Zoom. Rev. Auletta's church was the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from PPUABA last spring. She joined us to talk about how the money was used. She explained the church has been working with PS 15 in Red Hook, providing needed school supplies. The school then experienced an influx of immigrant families who needed assistance and the church responded by providing things such as prepaid cell phones, clothing, and food as many of the immigrants were living in a shelter not far from the school. When the families had to leave the shelter, the church assisted them with finding apartments and financial assistance to allow them to move as well as helping find daycare, transportation, etc. She also emphasized the distribution of the funds, including our donation, is well managed. Teddy voiced our appreciation for the work that her church does and thanked her for speaking to us.

Meet Your Neighbor Social Event

Stacey Weinstein spoke about the Meet Your Neighbor social event planned for October 15th from 5-9 PM on Underhill between Park and Sterling. Volunteers are needed to put up No Parking Signs the week before, help with setup at 5pm on the day of the event, bring folding tables to the event, bring a potluck dish to share and help clean up after the event.

Halloween on our Streets

Teddy spoke about setting up a photo gallery to take pictures of neighbor kids in their costumes between 4 PM and 6 PM on Halloween. Officers will contact Rachel Troy and Andrew Pockhart about using their garage space for the Halloween Photo Gallery. Gib Veconi mentioned volunteers are needed to help marshal gateways for the Halloween street closures on Park Place, Underhill, and Sterling that evening.

Growing our Community

Den Gordon started with a review of Growing our Community activities over the last few years. She emphasized the objective of Growing our Community was to develop relationships among neighbors and all its activities and projects have that goal in mind. She announced the Fall Cleanup will be held Sunday, November 16'th, when leaves can be recycled at Prospect Heights Community Garden.

Den also explained she is investigating NYC's plan to plant trees in the neighborhood. These are to replace trees damaged by the Water and Sewer Project on Park Place between Vanderbilt and Underhill and Underhill between Prospect and Sterling. Den has a contact to get wood chips for distribution to neighbors. People are needed to move the chips after delivery so outreach to neighbors is necessary, in addition to someone to receive the wood chips on front of their house. The topic of the median on Vanderbilt was discussed. Den and Robin Ketchum have been tending to the median. Camilla Rothenberg has helped with communication regarding the rain gardens. Judy Alley has been tending the one in front the Department of Education building on Park Place. Den has been working with the city to get the damaged rain gardens repaired. Regarding the

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James Forten Playground, Den did not get sufficient support from parents and neighbors to continue caring for it. Recently Den was approached by a parent who is interested in working on caring for the trees and plants in the playground and will work with her.

Baby Sitting Resource Pool

Peter Cobos is interested in establishing a baby sitting cooperative. It would also help bring people in the neighborhood closer. This would be on a very local level. Teddy suggested putting up a Google form that interested people could sign up. Mary Dale said that it is a great idea to bring the community closer together but must be led by younger parents who are motivated to make this happen.

May 2025 Meeting Minutes

Physical copies of the minutes were distributed for attendees to read. A motion to approve the May 2025 minutes as presented was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

New Business

There was a discussion about whether sponsoring a Fall Stoop Sale is a good idea. It was agreed it is best to have it when other block associations are having theirs. Marc Gordon will reach out to other block associations to see if they plan to have a sale. Marc will also send out an email to judge interest in having a stoop sale.

Gib Veconi reported on the Atlantic Yards (Pacific Park) Project. He gave a brief history of the project and about how the Prospect Heights Development Corp (PHNDC) has tried to ensure that the affordable housing component was included in the project. There is a new joint venture taking over the remainder of the building on the site. Gib asked attendees to go to the PHNDC website and sign a petition to force the developer to pay the damages owed to NYC because of failure to complete the affordable housing component.

A motion to conclude the meeting was made, seconded and passed unanimously, at 9:12 PM.