

# Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes

4/16/2025

Attendees:

Hector Robinson*	Sharon Combs	Teddy Theoharis
Diana Regan	Randy Jackson	Bruce McInnes
Ed Regan	Richard Roth	Mary Dale
Phyllis Brody	Adrian Gately	Stacey Weinstein
Robin Ketchum	Susan Metz	Jill Frasier
Stacey Weinstein	David Bowen	

\*Guest speaker

The meeting was held in-person at the home of Dee and Ed Regan, 319 Park Place and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Teddy Theoharis, President, at 7:37 PM.

## **Hector Robinson, Candidate for District 35 City Council Seat**

PPUABA is inviting the candidates for the upcoming City Council District 35 primary election to speak at our meetings. The primary election is scheduled for June 24th, and the winner of the Democratic Party primary is likely to win the general election in November. PPUABA does not endorse candidates, but we encourage neighbors to get involved in the political process and act on the issues in the neighborhood. Tonight's candidate speaker, Hector Robinson and his wife are residents of District 35. He is a lawyer, a longtime Crown Heights advocate and the descendant of Jamaican and Panamanian parents. He is committed to public and community service. He founded the Washington Avenue Botanic Block Association and the Crown Heights Community Council.

He shared his personal and professional achievements, highlighting his work in the pharmaceutical industry and his ability to take advantage of opportunities to further his education and career. He was inspired to enter public service by seeing that the needs of people in his community were not being met and the following are his positions on various issues:

- He would deal with housing affordability by review the ULURP process and how the city manages its land. He feels landlords building luxury housing are favored while there is a need for affordable housing, market rate housing and housing for the homeless. There should by a top down review of the needs for different kinds of housing and planning for where to build the housing.
- He feels that food insecurity is an issue and he would support food pantries which provide food to those in needs.
- He also thinks public education needs funding from the state to provide things such as internet service.
- He is also concerned with public safety and would increase patrols in higher crime areas.
- He supports the rights of retirees of NYC to keep their current benefits.
- He does not support the plan for installing a skate park in Mount Prospect Park.
- Regarding a question on safety of e-bikes, he says that bikes should obey traffic rules. He feels legislation is needed and perhaps bikes should have insurance or license plates.
- If he is elected, he will have more public presence than the current incumbent, who he says doesn't talk to her constituents.
- He would also advocate more planning of infrastructure as large buildings are being built in the district. He favors the use of data to make better decisions.

Teddy invited Hector to attend our Block Party to meet more of the people in our neighborhood and thanked him for coming to speak to us.

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Randy Jackson asked about the boundaries of our district and Teddy suggested we send out a map via email.

### Water and Sewer Project

Teddy reported on the recent Water and Sewer Project meeting. The restoration of the sidewalks and the asphalt are scheduled for May. There is discussion about the list of damaged items such as sidewalks, tree guards, etc. that must be resolved.

### Block Party

- Stacey Weinstein reported that planning for the Block Party is coming together. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Bert, the face painter, will start at 3:30 and paint faces until the end of the block party. A magician has been hired who will perform magic for an hour and then make balloon animals for the kids for half an hour. There will also be a singer to entertain the kids. From 2 o'clock on, there will be constant entertainment for kids.
- We have 2 grills.
- Mary Dale reported that tables have been ordered, but mentioned there is currently no place available to store them overnight before and after the party. David Bowen offered his yard. Mary thanked him and will followup with him regarding the details.
- There will be a book table, Stacey asked people to donate books.
- The most important need is for volunteers to do the cooking at the grills and work at the tables
- Volunteer are needed before the event to put up no parking signs on the block where the party will be and also some flyers around the neighborhood.
- After discussion it was decided to have a phone tree and several people volunteered to make calls.
- Robin Ketchum will order the plants,
- Susan Metz to create and distribute small flyers with block party information as handouts.

### March 2025 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

### New Business

There was discussion about an obsolete sign that says "No Parking" in front of 307 Park Place and what we should do to get it removed.

A motion to conclude the meeting was made, seconded and passed unanimously, at 9:20 PM.