

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes

11/19/2005

Attendees:

Phyllis Brody	Robin Ketchum	Koreen Valtierra
Peter Cobos	Joe Ostwald	Gib Veconi
Andrea Fritsch	Diana Regan	Stacey Weinstein
Adrian Gately	Ed Regan	Lindsey Wolf
Den Gordon	Rick Roth	
Marc Gordon	Teddy Theoharis	

The meeting was held in-person at the home of Gib and Patti Veconi and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Teddy Theoharis, President, at 7:40 PM.

Babysitting resource pool

Peter Cobos discussed an initiative to create a babysitting resource pool, which he described as likely comprising two lists: one for external babysitters interested in additional work, and another list would be of local teenagers who could provide evening supervision for children. Peter is in the process of reaching out to interested participants to build these lists, with the aim of creating a reliable babysitting roster for the neighborhood.

Proposal to create a PPUABA social group

Teddy shared ideas about alternative meeting formats, potentially to include movie screenings and discussion, book clubs, crafting events or board game sessions. Koreen Valtierra expressed interest in facilitating crafting sessions. Peter Cobos suggested separating purely social gatherings from regular PPUABA meetings, potentially shortening the PPUABA meetings and holding separate social events the following week. There was also discussion about continuing PPUABA meetings or social gathering during the summer months. No specific follow up action was agreed upon.

Growing Our Community fall clean up results

Den Gordon discussed the November 16th multi-block cleanup, which had good participation from PPUABA members, sweeping sidewalks, cleaning tree beds, distributing and spreading wood chips, planting daffodil bulbs, and collecting bags of leaves. 43 large leaf bags were filled and transported to the Prospect Heights Community Farm where they will be shredded, composted, and used in the Community Farms' gardens next spring. Den emphasized that Growing Our Community is as much about growing and fostering relationships as it is about greening and beautification.

Nourishing Our Community winter clothing drive results

Marc Gordon reported on results of the winter clothing drive. Contributions already received and pledged but not yet received total over \$11,000, considerably higher than last year's contributions of \$8,759. The money will be used to purchase hats, gloves, men's and women's underwear, and sweatshirts, which will be delivered to CHiPS for distribution to their Food Services guests.

Water and sewer project quick update

Marc Gordon reported that after 4 ½ years, the water and sewer project was nearly done, with only a single restoration item remaining. It turned out that the one remaining restoration item had been completed the morning of the meeting, so the project is finally 100% complete!

Review and approval of September meeting minutes

A motion to approve the September minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

New business

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The group discussed concerns about stationary vehicles on PPUABA streets, specifically the “space ship” which is permanently parked in front of 299 Park Place. The vehicle is considered by many attendees to be an eyesore; it is not moved for alternate side parking preventing street cleaning from occurring; and it does not appear to ever be ticketed. Attendees discussed different approaches to address the situation but did not arrive at a conclusion. Teddy stated that the officers will further discuss the issue and report back at the next general meeting.

Gib Veconi shared updates on future development plans for the Atlantic Yards project and concerns about the lack of local engagement under the Urban Development Corporation Act. He encouraged community involvement in the review process and circulated a petition to require the state to collect damages from the developer for failing to produce affordable housing as promised.

Gib also discussed the Vanderbilt Avenue holiday lights for which PHNDC is soliciting contributions and provided a QR code through which attendees could contribute.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.