

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes

05/15/2024

Attendees:

Phyllis Brody	Robin Ketchum	Teresa Smith *
Hadi Elhashash *	Andrew McKenna	Teddy Theoharis
Jill Frasier	Ethan Mulligan	Gib Veconi
Den Gordon	Joe Ostwald	Patti Veconi
Marc Gordon	Shernell Pemberton *	Matt Weinstein
Sean Gullette	Diana Regan	Stacey Weinstein
Jake Indursky	Ed Regan	

* guest

The meeting was held in-person at the home of Robin and Peter Ketchum and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Patti Veconi, President, at 7:35 PM.

Water Main and Sewer Main Project Update

Community Construction Liaison Shernell Pemberton, Project Resident Engineer Hadi Elhashash, and NYC DDC Deputy Commissioner of Communication and Outreach Teresa Smith attended to provide updates on the project and to listen to block association member concerns:

- Ms. Pemberton and Mr. Elhashash reported that the contractor, Perfetto Contracting, is expected to be on site beginning Monday May 20 to begin removal of unneeded construction materials, clean-up of the storage areas, and consolidation of the storage areas. All of the items noted by Mr. Elhashash during the on-site field meeting between DDC representatives and community residents on May 8th are to be addressed.
- Mr. Elhashash could not specifically say which materials would be removed, and stated that the contractor's position is that many of the materials will or may be needed later in the course of the project. If the contractor demobilizes (i.e. removes materials) and subsequently needs those materials, there will be additional cost to the project which is running low on funding.
- Marc Gordon stated that residents were initially understanding of the need for materials to be stored on our streets when the project was started and scheduled to take 15 months. Now, after more than 3 years and another delay for which there is so far, no resolution and no scheduled end date, residents are infuriated about the blight the storage areas continue to impose on our blocks. He asked that the contractor be asked to remove all materials which are not forecast to be used within one month, and that removal of storage materials be treated as another change order, even if it requires additional funding (just as many change orders have been created during the project each requiring additional funding).
- Gib Veconi suggested that the Department of Transportation be approached with a request to cancel the permits allowing Perfetto to store materials on Park Place until a new schedule is established.
- Representatives of DDC (including Borough Director Maria Mondale) and Perfetto, and potentially DoT will be meeting tomorrow (May 16) to discuss and hopefully resolve the plan to remediate the MTA cable obstructing excavation on Vanderbilt Avenue, as well as the extent of clean-up and consolidation to be done in the storage areas. DDC Deputy Director for Communications and Outreach Teresa Smith will attend and promised to advocate on behalf of the concerns expressed by PPUABA members.
- When there were no further questions from attendees, PPUABA President Patti Veconi thanked Ms. Pemberton, Mr. Elhashash and Ms. Smith for attending.

April Meeting Minutes

- A motion to waive reading of the April 17th meeting minutes and to approve them as written was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Block Party

- Treasurer Ed Regan reported on the financial outcome of the May 4th block party. This year's party was the second most profitable in the 8 years that Ed has been treasurer, netting \$1,510.47 (the 2023 block party was the most profitable).
- Stacey Weinstein reported that despite cool and overcast weather, the block party was well attended and busy. Kids especially enjoyed the magician and the face painter, who stayed late in the afternoon to attend to all the kids waiting in line. The grill sold out, and Stacey recommends that we find a second grill for next year to reduce waiting times. Stacey thanked the many volunteers who helped to close the street, set up all the tables, staff the tables, clean up and store the tables and reopen the street.

Treasurer's Report

- Ed Regan gave the block association financial report showing results for 2023 and for 2024 year-to-date. So far this year, we have collected \$1,100 in membership contributions in addition to the \$1,510 income from the block party. PPUABA grants (\$2,500) and expenses year to date (\$111) total \$2,611, resulting in the block association's balance as of May 15 (\$6,382.92) being almost exactly equal to the start of year balance. There will be additional expenses as the year progresses, but we hope to also collect additional membership contributions and roughly break even for the full year.

Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers

- Ed Regan reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee, which consisted of Ed, Robin Ketchum, and Bruce McInnes.
- The nominations for PPUABA officers for the June 2024 to June 2025 term are:
 - President: Teddy Theoharis
 - Vice Presidents: Peter Cobos and Joe Ostwald
 - Recording Secretary: Mary Dale
 - Communications Officer: Marc Gordon
 - Treasurer: Stacey Weinstein
- There were no nominations from the floor.
- A motion to elect the Nominating Committee's slate was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

New Business

- Patti Veconi mentioned that we traditionally hold an end-of-season party in lieu of our June meeting, and that in recent years we have met outdoors. The officers will meet in early June to discuss and propose a location for our June end of season party.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Note

- At the end of the meeting, it was discovered that due to a technical fault, the meeting had not been recorded. Therefore there will not be a recording available on the website.