

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes

1/17/2024

Attendees:

Hadi Elhashash*	Shernell Pemberton *	Brunhilde Vergouwen*
Jill Frasier	Mary Dale	Den Gordon
Marc Gordon	Stacey Weinstein	Patti Veconi
Bruce McInnes	Adrian Gately	Richard Roth
Diana Regan	Matt Weinstein	Michelle Hewryk
Aaron Husock	Jake Indursky	Barbara Montgomery
Robin Ketchum	Ethan Mulligan	Sara Odenheimer
Gib Veconi	Ed Regan	Teddy Theoharis

*Guest

The meeting was held in-person at the home of Ed and Dee Regan, 319 Park Place, and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Patti Veconi, President, at 7:30 PM.

Our guest speakers, Hadi Elhashash and Shernell Pemberton of the NYC Department of Design and Construction, joined the meeting via Zoom to discuss the water and sewer main replacement project. Hadi Elhashash spoke about the progress Con Edison has made at the intersection of Vanderbilt Avenue and Park Place. Their work is scheduled to be finished next week. Profetto Construction is scheduled to resume their work at the beginning of February. They forecast 2 to 3 months to complete sewer installation on Vanderbilt Avenue and the intersection of Vanderbilt with Park Place. The entire project, including restoration is scheduled to be complete by the end of July 2024.

Hadi and Shernell answered some questions from the the attendees.

Bruce McInnes had a question about why Profetto left so much material on the street and in such a bad state. Hadi answered it is necessary to complete the project, and more sewer sections will be delivered as the work is done.

Mary Dale asked about how the restoration will be done, as there is much more than simply repaving the streets. Hadi answered that videos of the streets were taken before the job commenced and that they are used to ensure the restoration is complete and thorough. Residents are requested to email Shernell Pemberton regarding any damage done to their sidewalks, tree guards, rain gardens, etc.

Den Gordon asked about trees damaged and removed during construction and how they will be replaced. Hadi responded that trees are not in the scope of project.

Brunhilde Vergouwen requested that Shernell Pemberton provide a full timeline of the remaining project, not just weekly bulletins.

Further questions from Marc Gordon and Brunhilde Vergouwen elicited the following from Hadi: Sewer pipes will be 24" in diameter on Vanderbilt Avenue, 36" at the intersection. Profetto is ready to start work promptly after the completion of the Con Ed work. Profetto will try to bring back the same crew, as they are familiar with the work already done. During construction, Park Place will be closed from 9 AM to 2:30 PM weekdays. There will be 2 way traffic on Vanderbilt Avenue, with one lane in each direction at all times.

Bruce McInnes requested that the alternate side signs on Park Place be covered during construction and Hadi agreed.

Den Gordon added that there may be a NYC grant available to replace trees lost during construction and she has been in touch the appropriate people.

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Patti Veconi thanked Hadi and Shernell for attending the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Regan presented a treasurer's report for 2023. Highlights are:

Record contributions from members were received, \$1,554 collected from 82 households. Plant sale profits were the highest ever, \$1,891.

Total income was \$ 3,445, net was -\$ 256.

Ed concluded that we could support \$2500 in grants for 2024.

The full report is available [here](#) or via the PPUABA.org website in the Minutes section.

Following the report, Marc Gordon suggested we draw down our balance somewhat. A discussion followed. Patti Veconi concluded the discussion by saying that the officers had recommended a \$2,500 allocation for grants for 2024 and that we would move forward with that this year.

A motion to allocate \$2,500 for grants for 2024 was made, seconded and passed unanimously. Patti Veconi announced that grant applications are open, with forms on the PPUABA website, ppuaba.org. In February, a grants committee will be formed to review applications.

Spring Block Party

The date of Saturday, May 4'th was suggested for the Spring Block Party and Plant Sale. After a brief discussion, a motion to hold the Spring Block Party on May 4'th on Underhill Avenue between Prospect Place and Park Place was made, seconded and passed unanimously. Matt Weinstein volunteered to submit the permit application to close the street.

A motion to skip the reading of and to approve the minutes of the November 2024 meeting as published on the PPUABA website passed unanimously.

New Business

Matt Weinstein spoke about his desire for the city to complete the construction of the bike lane on Underhill Avenue. A particular issue is a person who parks his car in the crosswalk. Possible actions such as writing a letter to the mayor were discussed. Patti Veconi requested Matt send her photos to document the issue of the car which is parked in the crosswalk.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and passed unanimously at 8:54 PM.