

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Unapproved Minutes

3/20/2024

Attendees:

Shernell Pemberton*	Diana Regan	Phyllis Brody
Jill Frasier	Brunhilde Vergouwen *	Den Gordon
Marc Gordon	Ed Regan	Gib Veconi
Bruce McInnes	Adrian Gately	Patti Veconi
Fred Bendheim	Sarah Edkins	Stacey Weinstein
Andrew McKenna		

*guest

The meeting was held in-person at the home of Sarah Edkins and Fred Bendheim, 160 Underhill Avenue, and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Patti Veconi, President, at 7:30 PM.

Shernell Pemberton of the NYC Department of Design and Construction gave an update on the water and sewer project. Highlights of her update, including responses to questions from the attendees were:

- After an inspection of the site with Perfetto, they have committed to promptly clean their worksites and remove leaves and trash that has accumulated.
- The project is on schedule to complete by the Summer of 2024, hopefully July.
- The project was delayed until the B69 bus stop was removed but can now proceed.
- Perfetto will be informed that the gate behind 673 Underhill (on Park Place) is a driveway.
- Neighbors have complained about rats in storage areas. Shernell said that the area is now double baited and rats should not be a problem going forward.
- The last month of work is dedicated to restoration. Storage areas will shrink as work moves to completion.
- Shernell could not answer whether the new sewer on Vanderbilt or the 36" pipe across Park Place will be done first but will refer the question to Hadi Elhashash.
- Shernell was pressed for more information on timelines including major intermediate steps to complete the project, in addition to risk factors that might affect completion. She said she will have to discuss this with Hadi Elhashash.
- President Patti Veconi thanked Shernell for attending and said we will request a more detailed timeline from Hadi Elhashash.

A motion to skip the reading of and to approve the minutes of the February 2024 meeting as published on the PPUABA website was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Grants Committee

The Grants Committee reported their recommendations for the allocation of \$2500 among the applicants. The Grants Committee members are Teddy Theoharis (chair), Phyllis Brody, and Sharon Combs. Phyllis presented their recommendations and said that applications for funds that addressed poverty were given priority.

The recommendations are:

- Nourishing our Community (which supports CHIPS and Chance for Children) \$1700.
- PHNDC \$150
- PS 9 free store (supporting new migrant families) \$600
- Daffodils \$50

A vote was held on each allocation and all pass unanimously.

Nominating Committee

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Patti Veconi asked for volunteers to form a Nominating Committee for the election of officers for the 2024-2025 term. Ed Regan (Treasurer) and Patti Veconi (President) are not running for office. Ed Regan volunteered to be on the nominating committee and Ed and Patti will recruit more people after the meeting.

Spring Block Party

The date of Saturday, May 4th has been selected for the Spring Block Party and Plant Sale. Stacey Weinstein has hired Liam the magician and a face painter. We don't yet have a Fire Truck from the NYFD. A number of PPUABA tweens have volunteered to run children's games at the event. Den Gordon, assisted by Chloe Abercrombie are in charge of the plant table. Jill Frasier and Dee Regan will manage the book table. Volunteers to run the baked goods table and grill are needed.

Spring Cleanup and other events

- Den Gordon reported that an email was sent to all block associations in Prospect Heights area to set date of the cleanup as Saturday April 20th (Earth Day)
- May 11th there will be a plant share in front of on 302 Park Place.
- A bird walk will be lead by Ethan Mulligan on the morning of April 27th. Ethan Mulligan will confirm the time and date later.
- The stoop sale will be held June 1st.

New Business

Marc Gordon announced that this Friday is PPUABA's Nourishing Our Community's 200th donation. Started in the Fall of 2020, we make approximately 5 donations a month. Chance for Children distributes 200 pantry bags every Friday, mostly to residents of the Ebbetts Field housing project. CHIPS' lunches served has grown from 125 post pandemic to 425 now. CHIPS also provides 150-250 breakfasts each morning along with pantry bags on Thursday and Saturday. Jill reported the closure of the pantry at Saint Augustine has caused more people in need to go to CHIPS. Patti Veconi thanked Marc Gordon and and Jill Frasier for their work in making NOC possible.

There is a proposal by the city to install a skatepark in Mount Prospect Park. There are very few details about the project currently but at a planned 40,000 square feet it will be the largest on the east coast. Marc Gordon announced a community meeting will be held at Councilperson Crystal Hudson's office on March 25th. After discussion it was agreed that Marc Gordon will send out an informational email publicizing the meeting and including links to petitions against and for the proposed park.

Gib Veconi announced PHNDC will hold a Jane's walk (neighbourhood walking tour) on Saturday May4th. This walking tour will feature institutional and commercial building in Prospect Heights. It will be lead by Suzanne Spelling, an architectural historian. Pre-registration is required.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and passed unanimously at 8:38PM.