

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes

11/15/2023

Attendees:

Michele Bonan, Brooklyn Public Library*	Gib Veconi	Ed Regan
Jill Frasier	Mary Dale	Den Gordon
Marc Gordon	Stacey Weinstein	Patti Veconi
Bruce McInnes	Phyllis Brody	Richard Roth
Diana Regan	Sharon Combs	Randy Jackson

*Guest

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

Our Guest Speaker, Michele Bonan, VP of Government and Community Relations at the Brooklyn Public Library joined the meeting via Zoom. Her job includes working with elected officials, lobbying for the library, and fund raising. Highlights of current and planned BPL programs and projects include:

- The Book of HOV, an extremely popular installation honoring the fiftieth anniversary of hip hop and the rapper, Jay-Z. On exhibit until 12/4.
- Recent renovations to the Central Library including a new entrance on Flatbush Avenue to the Civic Commons. In addition there is a new Business and Career Center.
- Ready, Set, Kindergarden, a program to prepare toddlers for school.
- BPL Presents is BPL's curated cultural program, with arts and culture offerings
- A program to allow teens from across the country to have BPL cards to provide access to books that are banned.
- College Connect, an online program to help high school students apply to college.
- Future Plans include a new dedicated center for teens and conversion of book storage to public space.
- The possibility of decking over the rear parking lot to create an entrance to Mount Prospect Park is being investigated.

Michele answered a few questions from attendees. Patti Veconi thanked her for very informative presentation.

A motion to skip the reading of and to approve the minutes of the September 2023 meeting as published on the PPUABA website was passed unanimously.

Marc Gordon reported on this year's warm clothing drive for CHIPS. He said the need is greater than ever because of the influx of migrants to NYC. Thanks to the contributions of PPUABA members \$6870 was raised, double the amount from last year. Thirty-one households made donations and the funds collected enabled Marc to purchase 400 fleece lined hooded sweatshirts, 432 pairs of fleece lined gloves, and to donate the remaining funds to CHIPS. The gloves will be distributed at Thanksgiving and the sweatshirts at Christmas. Jill Frasier thanked Marc on behalf of PPUABA for his hard work which contributed to the exceptional success of this year's drive.

Den Gordon reported on Growing our Community. Thanks to Den and her volunteers' efforts PPUABA is now a Tier 2 steward for the rain gardens in our area. An event was held on November 4th to clean and plant in the rain gardens. Den thanked the attendees for coming out and helping. All plants planted are native to this area and were provided by the Gowanus Conservancy. In addition, various members volunteered to monitor individual pits going forward and to report problems to DEP.

There was no new business raised.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and passed unanimously at 8:45 PM.