

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Unapproved Minutes

4/17/2024

Attendees:

Matt Meyer	Amber Greene	Christiana Dittman
Marc Gordon	Diana Regan	Den Gordon
Michael Myer	Ed Regan	Gib Veconi
Meg Starr	Ethan Mulligan	Olexa Hewryk
Megan Moustafa	Mary Dale	Patti Veconi
Phyllis Brody	Matt Weinstein	Stacey Weinstein
Randy Jackson	Robin Ketchum	Teddy Theoharis
Rick Roth	Sharon Combs	Molly Meyer

The meeting was held in-person at the home of Mary Dale and Richard Roth, 306 Park Place, and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Patti Veconi, President, at 7:33 PM.

Patti introduced our speaker and neighbor, Matt Meyer. Matt is a historian and teacher as well as being the Secretary General of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), the world's oldest and largest consortium of professors, researchers, students and community activists working together for peace. He has traveled extensively, especially to Africa and Asia. He dedicated his talk to various members of PPUABA and emphasized the importance of community as exemplified by our block association and the people who live on our blocks. His Neighbor Profile, was written by Patti Veconi and published on the PPUABA website, (<https://www.ppuaba.org/neighbor-profiles/>) in April 2024. It documents his life and work, including the many celebrated people he has met during his career. At the conclusion Matt answered some questions from the audience. He was thanked by Patti Veconi.

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

Growing our Community

Den Gordon, committee head, gave an update on various initiatives:

Cleanup – cleanup events draw a significant number of neighbors to clean our streets, sidewalks, etc. The next cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 20th at 10AM, in conjunction with other block associations in Prospect Heights.

Vanderbilt Median – cleanup and planting fosters community as it is done with other neighbors and block associations. PHNDC provided the roses that are planted there.

Rain gardens - have been problematic with dumping and flooding and plants not being cared for.

Composting - is available to all neighbors via orange or brown bins.

Tree beds – PPUABA donates \$50 to New Yorker for Parks to help pay for daffodils for tree beds.

Tree replacements for trees damaged or destroyed during the sewer project – Den was informed by Shernell Pemberton of the NYC Department of Design and Construction, that street tree replacement is not in scope for the project. She will, however, contact the Parks Department to try to prioritize replacement of our (approximately 8) trees. Den reported the reaching out to Crystal Hudson's office has not been productive.

Spring Block Party Update

Most of the planning for the party on Saturday, May 4th has been completed. Patti Veconi did mention the following areas where help was needed:

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Volunteers are needed for the phone tree. Ed Regan, Sharon Combs, Mary Dale, Dee Regan, Robin Ketchum and Teddy Theoharis volunteered.

The baked goods table needs volunteers. Meg Starr and Phyllis Brody volunteered.

The pot luck will follow the party and take place at approximately 5:30PM.

Face painting will be prioritized for the kids on our blocks.

Alternate side parking is suspended the week before the party, so No Parking signs must go up early.

New Business

Christiana Dittman reported a possible attempted break-in at her house and encouraged people to lock their windows.

Sewer project: Marc Gordon will send out an email asking neighbors to identify damage done by the project over the last years. Den Gordon and Mary Dale will conduct a physical survey. The results will be consolidated into a document we will give to Hadi Elhashash of the Department of Design and Construction for remediation. The project is officially scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer and restoration will be the final step.

Marc Gordon is seeking updates to member information prior to publishing our member directory. He is also asking people to make their \$10 per household yearly dues contribution.

Patti Veconi spoke about the upcoming Bird Walk on April 27'th, led by Ethan Mulligan. Patti suggested having a Fall green walk to learn about trees.

Ed Regan spoke on behalf of the nominating committee, which is seeking people who might want to serve as officers for the 2024-2025 term.

There is a large project starting to redesign Grand Army Plaza. Mary Dale urged people to learn about and become involved in the community outreach provided by the city while various scenarios are being considered. Gib Veconi elaborated on the process that is used for the redesign.

Megan Moustafa invited people to a tea to meet a friend, a Palestinian woman, who grew up in the West Bank. The tea will be in May; Megan asked we contact her for date and time.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and passed unanimously at 9:00PM.