

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes

09/21/2022

Attendees:

Mike Beaumonte	Rhoda Hill	Richard Roth
Dewi Billano	Randolph Jackson	Rachel Troy
Phyllis Brody	Robin Ketchum	Gib Veconi
Sharon Combs	Ethan Mulligan	Patti Veconi
Mary Dale	Diana Regan	Stacey Weinstein
Jill Frasier	Ed Regan	David Whitbeck
Heidi Rodewald		

* guest

The meeting was held in-person at the home of Patti and Gib Veconi, 284 Park Place and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Patti Veconi, President, at 7:40 PM.

PPUABA business items and announcements

Stacey Weinstein reported on plans for the PPUABA Block Party which will be held on Saturday, October 1st. Help is needed to setup the rented tables. The following tables are planned: Books, Fall Plants, PPUABA Information, and Children's Activities. Pam Trunk has a gas grill we can use, but it needs cleaning. There is a magician scheduled to perform at 2:00 PM and a Knife Sharpener will be on the street at 3:00 PM. We have requested a Fire Truck from FDNY. There will be a pot luck dinner at 5:00PM. Help is needed to cleanup and fold and store the tables. Sharon Combs, Ed and Dee Regan and Robin Ketchum volunteered to work with Patti Veconi on the phone tree.

The following activities are upcoming:

October 8th: PPUABA Fall Stoop Sale

October 23rd: Daffodil Distribution and Tree Bed Cleanup

Recap of Community Meeting about Water Main and Sewer Project work now on Park Place between Underhill & Vanderbilt

The meeting was held on September 20th at 10:00 AM, on Park Place between Vanderbilt and Underhill. Approximately 45 people attended.

Sharon Combs and Richard Roth reported on the meeting with the project team as follows:

Who is who

Hadi Elhashash (646-879-3419) is the project's Chief Engineer. Zahir Baig (718-644-3667) is Hadi's on site person. The Community Construction Liaison (CCL) is Shernell Pemberton. (347-967-0496). When issues are encountered call Shernell. Also, please inform Patti if you are calling so she can maintain an overview of issues and communications with the project team.

CSA provides engineering services for the project.

The Chief Engineer has oversight over the contractor. The contractor is Perfetto Contracting, or PCC. The completion date is now scheduled to be December 31st 2023.

Hadi answered questions from the group with responses as follows:

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Rat abatement and disposal of garbage is perceived by residents to be the #1 problem. Hadi said we can leave garbage for pickup in front of our homes, but moving it to the openings to the street, which are provided every 50 feet is better. Some people thought the mint flavored garbage bags are effective at repelling rats.

People at the meeting requested that the project have the exterminators back to deal with the rats.

Housekeeping It was requested that the contractors perform housekeeping on a frequent regular basis. Also that tree pits be cleaned as residents don't have access to them. Hadi committed to doing this. It was also asked that the dumpsters used by the project be covered when not in active use.

Hadi stated they do not anticipate any more water shutoffs.

Flooding Residents expressed concerns that there will be more flooding in cellars and basements during the project. It was requested that construction equipment not block the flow of water in the gutters downhill to the sewers at the corners. Hadi stated he did not believe the project will make flooding worse.

Access to the Street. Driveways and hydrants will have 24 hour access to the street. If there is an individual in a house that may need access to the street due to ill health, etc, this information should be given to Shernell.

Vehicles on the sidewalk. A great deal of concern was expressed about the use of motorized bikes on the sidewalks, which have been narrowed by project barricades. Delivery people are taking short cuts down the sidewalks, often at high speeds, when the street is not accessible. There are project staff controlling street traffic during working hours, but they do not supervise use of the sidewalks, only the roads. It was requested of Hadi that the contractor have extra staff assigned to protect use of the sidewalks.

Storing and staging on Park Place. Hadi explained that the active traffic lane is on the south side of the street because of the placement of an electrical line that they must avoid. It was asked that storage on Park Place be minimized and the areas kept as clean as possible.

Vibrations and building damage. Large excavating machines will be used on Park Place. Vibration meters in place will set off an alarm if vibrations exceed an acceptable level and the contractors will respond. Hadi said that pictures had been taken of all houses before the work began to compare in case of reported damage. **Gib Veconi suggested that residents take their own pictures in addition.** Any damage that occurs should be reported to Shernell.

Completion After completion, the streets will be paved curb to curb. Hadi asked us to be patient while the project is underway.

Updates will be posted to the PPUABA website under <https://www.ppuaba.org/water-and-sewer-project/>.

PPUABA initiatives old and new

Jill Frasier gave an overview of Nourishing our Committee, which made its 100'th delivery of food in the past month.

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Patti Veconi spoke about upcoming events and outings such as holiday caroling and a bird watching walk.

New Business

Phyllis Brody has volunteered to coordinate hosts for monthly, in-person PPUABA meetings.

Patti Veconi was contacted by Andrew Wright, from Crystal Hudson's (our councilperson) office regarding 2 current initiatives. One was Participatory Budgeting which is sponsored by the City, and makes funds available for local or neighborhood projects. The second was the District 35 Rat Task Force.

Gib Veconi mentioned a PHNDC initiative for volunteers to keep the catch basins at the corners clear to help prevent flooding until the new sewer system is complete.

Gib also announced the PHNDC general meeting will take place on October 27'th via Zoom.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.