

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes

02/15/2023

Attendees:

Chrissy Angliker	Mike Hanne	Ed Regan
Al Bass	Michelle Hewryk	Heidi Rodewald
David Bijur	Olexa Hewryk	Rick Roth
Phyllis Brody	Crystal Hudson (NYC Council) *	Teddy Theoharis
Frances Caroll	Erika Inwald	Patti Veconi
Mary Dale	Randolph Jackson	Matt Weinstein
Jill Frasier	Robin Ketchum	Stacey Weinstein
Den Gordon	Bruce McInnes	Lindsey Wolf
Marc Gordon	Ethan Mulligan	Diana Regan
Michael-David Gordon		

* guest

The meeting was held in-person at the home of Gib Veconi and Patti Veconi and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Patti Veconi, President, at 7:30 PM.

Guest Speaker Council Member Crystal Hudson

Patti Veconi introduced our City Council Member, Crystal Hudson. She spoke about her initiatives for the past year, including supporting Age In Place for seniors and support for housing initiatives, such as the right to counsel in case of evictions.

She noted there is redistricting this year in New York City and she will have to run again in June 2023, although her district boundaries will not change significantly.

In response to questions from Patti Veconi, who asked about the current status of the anti rat task force. Crystal responded that Andrew Wright leads the effort. He is in the process of organizing a core group of people who are interested in dealing with rats and empowering that group to take action.

Stacey Weinstein had a comment about the new composting bins. Stacey said the bins are not being emptied quickly enough. For instance, they are not emptied on weekends or holidays and once they are full some people are leaving their compost next to the bin rather than inside. Ms. Hudson responded that the deployment of bins was done via a process called 'slow rollout' that allows for feedback and modifications. She will pass our feedback on and this may lead to modification in the schedules for emptying them or where they are located.

In response to Patti Veconi's question regarding how her discretionary funds will be allocated this year, Ms. Hudson responded that support for youth, the aging, housing, and iconic cultural institutions in her district are her priorities.

Patti Veconi asked what she had learned at her Coffee with Crystal Events. Crystal Hudson responded that attendees have major concerns about flooding since Hurricane Ida. She was also impressed by the sense of community she experienced in Prospect Heights.

Michael-David Gordon asked how he can obtain funding for his non-profit organization. Ms. Hudson said he should contact her office.

Teddy Theoharis asked about concerns that the city has not recovered post Covid and how can the city be strengthened to return to its pre-Covid state. Some issues mentioned are how to rebalance housing between office space and residential and to do tough projects such as the required repair of the BQE. Ms. Hudson responded the housing issue is impacted by zoning and legal requirements and cannot be done quickly. One possible change is to help small businesses by making outdoor dining facilities permanent. She continued that

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she is on the budget negotiation team and is aware that the city has not recovered from Covid and will face additional challenges when the federal Covid money ends in 2025 leaving the city in a more precarious financial position.

Marc Gordon asked what is her priority for legislation. Ms. Hudson responded that addressing racism was critical. She talked about her initiatives to try to lower high rates of black maternal mortality and to provide childcare for all city employees. She reviewed her committee assignments and described how bills are passed.

More information is available on her website <https://council.nyc.gov/district-35/>.

Patti Veconi thanked Ms. Hudson for attending our meeting.

Block Party Planning Update

Stacey Weinstein spoke about plans for the block party, scheduled for May 6th. A magician and a face painter have been booked. Al Bass will provide music. The application for the permit has been submitted. She will try to form a Block Party committee next month. People who would like to volunteer are asked to contact Stacey.

PPUABA Business

A motion to accept the January 2023 minutes as presented was passed unanimously.

Creation of the Grants Review Committee

Patti Veconi announced that grant applications are due today. Two thousand dollars have been allocated for grants this year. Teddy Theoharis volunteered to be chair of the Grants Review Committee.

Continuing Impacts of the Water & Sewer Project

Marc Gordon reported on the progress of the sewer replacement project. The city has decided to replace the water main, in addition to the sewer pipes on Park Place between Vanderbilt and Underhill. The water main pipe is 40 years old and the joints joining the pipes are made of lead. After the completion of the water main replacement, work on the sewer replacement on Park Place will resume. This is estimated to take 5 to 6 weeks. Also within the scope of the project is the replacement of the sewer pipe at the intersection of Vanderbilt and Underhill, a block on Vanderbilt and a block on Underhill. Storage on Underhill will be cleaned up in time for our block party. No updated master schedule has been published. The most up-to-date information PPUABA has is available at <https://www.ppuaba.org/water-and-sewer-project/>.

At the conclusion of Marc's update, Bruce McInnes thanked Marc on behalf of the group for his efforts in keeping us all informed about the sewer project.

New Business

An email was received from the president of the Sterling Place Block Association proposing that that April 29th be designated an All Block Cleanup Day. A motion was made and passed unanimously for PPUABA to participate in this cleanup effort on April 29th.

Frances Carroll spoke about Stacey Weinstein excellent work on the monthly newsletter. Patti Veconi and Frances Carroll will create a presentation recognizing Stacey's work at the Block Party.

Proposed Renaming of Corresponding Secretary to Communication Officer

Patti Veconi proposed renaming the position of Corresponding Secretary to Communication Officer. The Corresponding Secretary role has become obsolete because of current forms of communication. Functional changes include moving the maintenance of the address list to the Communications Officer. The Communications Officer will also maintain the website, ppuaba.org. These changes reflect the current use of technology and changes that have taken place over the years. Very few letters are written now while email and the PPUABA website have assumed a much greater role in reaching our membership. Making these

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changes require a change to the PPUABA bylaws. The text of this proposal will be published via email to the membership and voted on at the next meeting as required by the bylaws.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.