

# Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes  
06/23/2021

## Attendees:

Al Bass	Den Gordon	Diana Regan
Phyllis Brody	Marc Gordon	Ed Regan
Sharon Combs	PO Stravinsky Jeanbart	Teddy Theoharis
Mary Dale	Robin Ketchum	PO Elias Wallen
Karen Dauler	Eric Koskinen	PO Khalida Wallen
Jill Frasier	Bruce McInnes	Matt Weinstein
Peter Gordenstein	Alex Novack	Stacey Weinstein

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order by Marc Gordon, co-president at 7:36 PM.

## Featured Speakers

Three officers from the 77 Precinct attended the meeting. They were: Community Affairs Officer Khalida Wallen, Neighborhood Coordination Officer Elias Wallen and Community Affairs Officer Stravinsky Jeanbart, They answered questions from the membership regarding the 77'th Precinct and the police department. Officer Jeanbart stated his goal was to offer a helping hand to the community. Officer Elias Wallen felt it was important that he get to know the residents of the neighborhood in order to support it.

Co-Presidents Marc Gordon and Robin Ketchum introduced themselves and the block association and asked questions raised by neighbors.

Dangerous behavior by E-bike riders, specifically delivery people was an issue many people complained about. The officers responded it was difficult for them to take action, although E-bikes have caused fatalities recently. Police must see them acting in a dangerous way or speeding before they can ticket them. When speeding they cannot chase them, so the riders escape. Nor does NYC have any plans to have bikes registered with the city. There is another issue with unlicensed scooters used for joy riding in the streets, but the police are not permitted to chase them either. The issue of bicycle riders flouting traffic rules and endangering pedestrians was also raised. It was suggested by Stacey Weinstein rider education was needed. When people asked we can do the officers suggested we contact our Assembly member or Community Board and complain. Marc said we can look into doing this in the Fall as an initiative when meetings resume.

Teddy Theoharis asked what do the police need from our community. They asked we contact 311 or the NCO when we see a problem.

Dee Regan asked if the precinct can help with mail and package theft which has been an ongoing problem. The response was that these thefts are a federal crime and the NYPD is not involved.

Sharon Combs asked about fireworks and was told to call 911 to report illegal fireworks.

Marc Gordon thanked the officers for attending our meeting and answering our questions.

## Nourishing Our Community

Jill Frasier reported on Nourishing our Community. Twenty-nine families have donated \$9,000 which has been used to purchase food and clothing, and 32 separate deliveries have been made to Chance for Children and CHIPS. Our latest email outreach has brought 3 new financial supporters but no additional drivers.

## Growing Our Community

Den Gordon reported on Growing our Community. The Vanderbilt median has been weeded and barriers have been installed to protect the roses. Al Bass and Den Gordon will be organizing maintenance and planting of the rain gardens which are mostly on Park Place between Underhill and Washington. It is their hope that neighbors from that block will become involved in the project. The Underground Playground has been renamed the James Forten Playground. The fundraising effort for the playground has netted \$500 from the Tag Sale and \$500 from a grant from PPUABA. In addition, a Capacity Fund Grant of \$1300 from Partnership for Parks was received.

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### **PPUABA business items and announcements:**

The minutes for the May meeting were approved as written unanimously.

The officers for the 2021-2022 year were inducted by Bruce McInnes, chair of the nominating committee. They are:

- Co-Presidents: Robin Ketchum and Marc Gordon
- Vice Presidents: Ethan Mulligan and Patti Veconi
- Recording Secretary: Mary Dale
- Corresponding Secretary: Den Gordon
- Treasurer: Ed Regan

### **New Business:**

Bruce McInnes stated that the protective frames around the trees installed for the Water and Sewer Replacement Project were inside the tree guards; they should have been installed outside the guards. He asked that someone contact Ahmed Elhashash, the Community Construction Liaison to ask to have the issue corrected. Marc volunteered to call.

Concern was raised about the fact that the ongoing sewer project may lead to more rats on our block. Marc responded that rat control was part of the project and that bait boxes will be put out. Marc suggested looking on the PPUABA.org website to find more information the project.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm. Members were invited to gather at the Gordons' house at 302 Park Place for an end-of-season stoop party.