

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes

04/21/2021

Attendees:

Al Bass	Michelle Hewryk	Ed Regan
Phyllis Brody	Olexa Hewryk	Gib Veconi
Fran Caroll	Charmaine Koskinen	Patti Veconi
Sharon Combs	Eric Koskinen	Matt Weinstein
Jill Frasier	Bruce McInnes	Stacey Weinstein
Carmelo Freda	Susan Metz	David Whitbeck
Den Gordon	Ethan Mulligan	
Marc Gordon	Diana Regan	

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order by Marc Gordon, co-president at 7:37 PM.

Featured Speaker

Carmelo Freda, a Senior Policy Specialist in the NYC Dept of Sanitation's Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability, gave an insightful presentation on "What happens to material collected for recycling?". He gave a brief history of the NYC recycling project since the 1990's and noted that the population density of NYC was advantageous in the recycling sales market as it almost guarantees that recyclables are always available. Paper/cardboard is sold to Pratt Paper on Staten Island. It is a self-contained paper recycling facility that also makes recycled paper products. 100% of metal and plastic is sold to SIMS, a recycling facility in Sunset Park. The Dept of Sanitation does not track the ultimate disposition of recycled materials as part of its contracts with processors. Questions were taken and Marc thanked Carmelo for his time.

Meet Your Neighbors event on May 15

Marc spoke about the Meet Your Neighbors event that will be held on Underhill Avenue on May 15. There will be a plant sale and activities for kids. Eric Koskinen will set up yard games, Stacey will check out the cost of the magician and Bruce asked if we could do storytelling. Marc reported that an email that was sent to parents with young children asking for suggestions/and or support did not yield any responses.

Growing Our Community

Den Gordon reviewed the spring activities being sponsored by the "Growing Our Community" initiative. Wood protection has been set up around the trees at the Vanderbilt Avenue median as part of the protocol of the Water/Sewer project. The engineer has been asked to protect the roses, too. The raingardens have been assessed and volunteers are needed for the next steps. Friends of Underhill Playground has scheduled a tree bed activity the next two Saturdays with toy inspection by the parents this Saturday. The Parks Dept has delivered mulch for the tree beds and Partnership for Parks has been very supportive in supplying materials. Bulbs that were planted at the tree bed cleanup last fall have uplifted us this spring.

Nourishing Our Community

Jill Frasier gave a report on the "Nourishing our Community" initiative. Contributions made by PPUABA members allow us to spend approximately \$800 per month to make 2 deliveries of fresh produce to Chance for Children and 2 deliveries of fruit to CHIPS each month. Jill thanked both the contributors and the shopper / deliverers. Al Bass volunteered as a shopper / deliverer. Jill will add him to the list.

Learning Communities

Susan Metz revisited Learning Communities and hopes to get together with people during the week of May 3rd on the Underhill Avenue Open Street. In order for the project to move forward grants and people to administer the program are needed. There is a learning community movie group in existence on the upper block of Park Place.

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Open Streets

Gib Veconi discussed both Vanderbilt Avenue and Underhill Avenue Open Streets. He explained that the funding goals for Vanderbilt Avenue were split into 3 timeframes – spring, summer and fall. The spring funding came from individual contributions but the hope is that the summer and fall funding will largely be from grants and sponsorships in addition to contributions. It is intended that Underhill Avenue be transitioned to a local, residential street from a thru street as a result of the Open Streets and that Vanderbilt Avenue Open Streets becomes permanent.

PPUABA business items and announcements:

The minutes for the March meeting were approved unanimously.

Marc announced several two new articles on the website. A PPUABA Archives page includes documents and artifacts provided by previous officers and other members that date from earlier years in the block association's 65-year history. Marc requested that if anyone has additional material, they contact Marc so it can be scanned and posted. A second new website article has details about the Water/Sewer project.

Marc asked for a volunteer to liaise with the water & sewer project Construction Community Liaison person and periodically report back to the block association. Gib Veconi volunteered.

Marc noted that only a small number of households have so far made their 2021 membership contributions and requested that people do so. Payments can be made electronically or by cash or check; instructions are in the "Join PPUABA" article on the website.

New Business:

Jill Frasier announced with sadness that Linnea Capps, a longtime resident of Underhill Avenue, died at her family's home in Kansas.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Jill Frasier, seconded by Bruce McInnes. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.