

# Park Place/Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes

1/27/2021

## Attendees:

Jen Abrams	Robin Ketchum	Sharon Combs
Diana Regan	Ed Regan	Susan Metz
Marc Gordon	Den Gordon	Phyllis Brody
Mary Dale	Richard Roth	Libby Ashton
David Bijur	Al Bass	Fran Carroll
Michelle Hewryk	Matt Weinstein	Aaron Weeks
Olexa Hewryk	Bennett Stein	Christiana Dittman
Stacey Weinstein	Jill Frasier	Maya Ziv
Bruce McInnes		

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order by Marc Gordon, co-president at 7:30 PM.

Jen Abrams, a neighbor, gave a brief talk about helping transgender women upon their release from Rikers Island. She worked with a group named Glitz to provide services such as housing and personal items for these women. She thanks the PPUABA neighbors for their generosity in responding to a call for donations for backpacks for those released. She also spoke about the way organizing quickly to respond to a need can be done effectively. In this case it was possible because many of the participants knew each other well and were familiar with each other's skills and talents.

## Report on water & sewer main replacement project

Marc Gordon reported that Carmela Smith, of the NYC Dept of Design & Construction presented an overview of project SEK002386 at the meeting of CB 8's Environment, Sanitation & Transportation committee on Tuesday Jan 26th. It will involve replacement of the water and sewer mains on Park Place from Carlton Avenue to Underhill Avenue, and on Vanderbilt Avenue from Park Place to Sterling Place, and on Underhill Avenue from Park Place to Sterling Place. The project will start mid-winter 2021 and is expected to be completed in summer 2022.

The purpose of the project is to alleviate flooding & sewer backups and improve water distribution.

Construction will occur Mon-Fri, excluding holidays, from 9am until 3pm, and is expected to be done continuously without significant breaks in activity during the construction period. There will be intermittent full road closures, and some impact to driveway access and parking on the impacted streets. Each building may experience full day water shut-offs (9am – 3pm) 2-3 times during the project. A rodent abatement program will be part of the project.

A Community Construction Liaison ("CCL") person will be appointed, most likely in early February, to provide detailed updates, including 72-hour and 24-hour notices of planned interruptions. Once the Project Office is established and the CCL is named, we will invite the CCL to a PPUABA meeting.

## Crown Heights Rezoning

Susan Metz gave a report on proposed rezoning to allow large buildings near the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Susan attended city hearings and participated in a suit against the developers and politicians who support the project. She outlined the process the rezoning must go through before it is approved. She urged everyone to vote in the upcoming June primaries.

**Nourishing our Community Update:**

PPUABA's recent deliveries were composed of fresh fruit to CHIPS and food items donated by CHIPS to Chance For Children. Jill Frasier thanked everyone who participated. PPUABA is currently able to purchase food for 3 donation deliveries a month.

Jill also informed the group that Sister Lillian Burley had suffered a heart attack and it is not known when she will return to the CFC office. Frances Carroll, Good and Welfare, will send a get-well card on PPUABA's behalf. Marc Gordon will post Sister Burley's address on the PPUABA website so individuals may send cards.

**Growing our Community Update:**

Den Gordon reported that a plant swap event will be organized in the Spring. The Prospect Heights Community Farm will receive composting material on Sunday for 11AM to 2PM. More activities will be announced as Spring approaches.

The minutes of the December, 2020 meeting were approved, with minor corrections.

**Plant Sale Update**

Marc Gordon announced that May 15'th is the proposed date for the Plant Sale & Block Party. The wisdom of having a Plant Sale & Block Party during the COVID pandemic was discussed. Among the alternatives suggested were selling only plants and having them pre-ordered by members, postponing the event until the Fall when COVID cases will have decreased or holding a scaled back event on May 15'th. The officers will discuss these at the officer's meeting and make a recommendation.

**Grants**

An amendment to the PPUABA Grant Policy which changed the timeline for submission of grant requests and for voting on grant requests once recommended by the grants committee was approved unanimously. The newly revised grant policy is on the PPUABA website.

Ed Regan, the Treasurer, reviewed our financial condition and ability to fund grants. In 2019 and 2020 PPUABA made grants of \$2000. Because we did not hold our usual fundraisers this year our bank balance fell by \$2000. Because of continuing poor fund-raising prospects Ed proposed allocating \$1000 for grants this year.

Bruce McInnes made a motion, seconded by Frances Carroll, to allocate \$2000 for grants. The motion failed 5-8. Dee Regan made a motion, seconded by Rick Roth to allocate \$1000 for grants. The motion passed unanimously.

**By-Laws**

Changes to PPUABA by-laws were presented for adoption. A motion to adopt the changes was made by Susan Metz, seconded by Al Bass. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Susan Metz, seconded by Rick Roth. The motion passed unanimously at 9:42 PM.