

PPUABA Meeting minutes 04/15/2020

Attendees:

Gib Veconi, Den Gordon, Marc Gordon, Stacey Weinstein, Robin Ketchum, Phyllis Brody, Jill Frasier, Ed Regan, Dee Regan, Sharon Combs, Bruce McInnes, David Whitbeck, Mary Dale, Rick Roth

Location:

The meeting was conducted using Zoom videoconferencing.

Meeting notes:

Gib Veconi called the meeting to order at 7:38pm.

Plant sale / block party

There was discussion about the block party and the possibility of conducting a plant sale in a different manner (e.g. by advance orders) without a full block party. Ultimately the group decided to cancel the block party and plant sale for May 9. Stacey Weinstein will ask Matt to cancel the street closing permit and seek a refund of the fee paid.

Grants

Phyllis Brody reported for the grants committee that there were 3 grant requests received by the committee, and that the committee was recommending that 2 grants be approved and 1 not approved. The committee recommended approval of a \$600 grant for CHIPS, which had been requested by Robin Ketchum; and a \$600 grant for St. Augustine Helping Hands, which had been requested by Jill Frasier. The grant request which was not recommended for approval was for the One Billion Oysters project, on the basis that while worthwhile, the grant does not address issues that are immediate to our Prospect Heights neighborhood. Discussion ensued about the size of the grants in light of PPUABA's likely lower income this year in light of the canceled block party, but also in light of the greater need that exists as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. After discussion and a vote, the group decided to increase the size of the grants to \$1,000 each to CHIPS and to St. Augustine Helping Hands, with the proviso that if the block association has less funds next year, we could consider making smaller or even no grants next year.

Nominating Committee

Bruce McInnes reported for the nominating committee that the following slate of officers is proposed:

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| Co-presidents | Robin Ketchum and Marc Gordon |
| Vice President | Gib Veconi |
| Treasurer | Ed Regan |

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|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Recording Secretary | Mary Dale |
| Corresponding Secretary | Den Gordon |
| Good & Welfare | Frances Carroll |

There was discussion about adding the position of Newsletter Editor as a PPUABA officer and member of the Executive Board, and nominating Stacey Weinstein to that position. Gib Veconi will review the bylaws to see if they allow creation of a new officer position without modification. Nevertheless, Stacey will be invited to attend future Executive Board meetings.

Meeting Minutes

There was discussion regarding distribution or online posting of the PPUABA meeting minutes rather than distributing them in hardcopy only at the subsequent month's meeting. Pros and Cons, relating primarily to creating incentives for attendance at meetings, and privacy issues, were discussed. The group decided to put the topic on the agenda for the next Executive Board meeting.

Mary Dale read aloud the minutes of the February 14th meeting, which had not previously been approved due to cancelation of the March meeting. The minutes were approved with minor adjustments.

Corresponding Secretary report

Den Gordon reported that she had sent a letter to Council Member Laurie Cumbo stating PPUABA's opposition to approval of the construction project at 960 Franklin Avenue which would block sunlight to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Curbside composting

Several members discussed their interest in accelerating our blocks' addition to the curbside composting initiative run by the Department of Sanitation. Gib Veconi stated that to his knowledge, there is a citywide freeze on additional implementations; however, PPUABA could appeal to be have our blocks be prioritized for implementation once the DoS resumes expansion of the initiative. Jill Frasier will speak with Theo, the coordinator of the composting project at PS 9, regarding the mechanics of how composting works in multi-family buildings.

Den Gordon will draft a letter on behalf of PPUABA to be reviewed at the next Executive Board meeting, requesting prioritization on the basis that it may help alleviate the problems the neighborhood has been experiencing with rat infestation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm