

Park Place - Underhill Avenue Block Association

Approved Minutes

05/19/2021

Attendees:

Al Bass	Den Gordon	Ed Regan
Rachel Bloom	Marc Gordon	Teddy Theoharis
Fran Caroll	Peter Ketchum	Gib Veconi
Sharon Combs	Robin Ketchum	Patti Veconi
Ahmed Elhashash	Bruce McInnes	Stacey Weinstein
Jill Frasier	Ethan Mulligan	David Whitbeck
Peter Gordenstein	Diana Regan	

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order by Marc Gordon, co-president at 7:35 PM.

Featured Speakers

Rachel Bloom, Director of Public Policy and Programs, Citizens Union gave a presentation on ranked-choice voting. A 2019 city-wide referendum for ranked-choice voting was held and passed by approximately 75% of votes. Rachel explained that 50% of votes are need for a candidate to be elected; when this does not occur in the first round, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and that candidate's votes go to the second choice candidate (if any) marked on each ballot which voted for that candidate. That process continues until one candidate has 50% of the votes or there are only 2 candidates remaining at which time the candidate with the most votes is the winner. RCV eliminates run-offs and therefore reduces the cost of elections. It also creates more diversity of views and policy. The website www.ElectNYC.org has an election guide for all candidates. Marc also referred to the [Election 2021](#) article on the PPUABA website which has information about Ranked Choice Voting, Early Voting, Primary Day Voting, Absentee Voting, Poll Site locations and hours, and Candidate Debates and Forums.

Ahmed Elhashash, NYC Dept of Design and Construction, Community Construction Liaison spoke about the Water and Sewer Replacement Project. Ahmed gave an overview of the project. The scope of the project is covered on www.ppuaba.org but he gave the updated schedule. Vanderbilt Avenue water mains work will start 1st/2nd week of June. Underhill Avenue water mains work is projected to start in July 2021 and the excavation to replace sewer mains on Park Place between Vanderbilt and Underhill is projected for September 2021. The project had agreed to delay installation of the tree bed protections on Park Place until September. Bruce McInnes pointed out that the protections should be on the outside of the tree guards. Ahmed also pointed out that the driveways on the south side of Park Place would most like be inaccessible for the duration of the sewer work. Ahmed is available for questions at parkplccl@gmail.com

Nominating Committee Report and Election of PPUABA Officers

Marc thanked the nominating committee for their dedicated work: Bruce McInnes, Fran Caroll and Sharon Combs. Bruce presented the slate of officers:

- 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

Ethan and Patti introduced themselves. Peter Gordenstein moved that the slate, as presented, be accepted and Stacey Weinstein seconded the motion. The slate was unanimously elected.

Growing Our Community

Den Gordon described the fantastic family activities that have been happening at Underhill Playground and asked for volunteers for the Underhill Playground stoop sale fundraiser. Marc pointed out that there are several block associations that have come together to hold and promote the stoop sales on June 5th. Den also thanked the people who submitted pre-orders for the plant sale, noting that was part of the success.

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PPUABA business items and announcements:

The minutes for the April meeting were approved unanimously.

Marc acknowledged the success of the Meet the Neighbors event on May 15th as being about connections among participants. Ed Regan, Treasurer, gave a financial report about the Meet the Neighbors event. The net income representing plant sales and membership dues less the magician's fee was \$599.61.

New Business:

Marc announced that while Susan Metz could not attend tonight's meeting, she wanted to report that as part of her Learning Communities proposal, she is now focused on forming three movie groups, one each for pre-teens, for teens and for adults. Interested members are asked to contact Susan for more information.

Gib Veconi stated that Underhill Avenue Open Streets had been extended to Atlantic Avenue so it now runs from Atlantic Avenue to St Johns Place starting May 19th 2021.

To avoid conflict with the date of the third and final NYC Mayoral debate, a decision was made and voted on to reschedule the June meeting to Wednesday, June 23rd from June 16th.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Bruce McInnes, seconded by Gib Veconi. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.